

THE IMPERATIVE OF PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

COLOSSIANS 3:15, HEBREWS 13: 15-16

Need: Being natural sinners none of us are inclined to offer to the Lord praise and thanksgiving.

Proposition: We are under a command from the Lord to offer continual sacrifices of praise and thanksgiving to the Lord.

Objective: To encourage obedience to this command from the Lord so that they will be enriched in the Lord.

Introduction:

Praise and thankfulness are imperative in Christian living. Praise is my grateful acknowledgement of who God is. Thanksgiving is my grateful acknowledgement of what God has done. In praise I honor Him for who He is, and in thanksgiving I honor Him for the benefits I have received from Him. Praise is motivated by wonder, and thanksgiving by gratitude.

As you review the week you have just finished, how often has the Lord heard your voice expressing gladness and gratitude to Him? It should be helpful to review together why the Lord has made praise and thanksgiving an imperative. Listen to His word!

I. PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING PLEASE THE LORD GOD.

“Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of our lips that confess his name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.” (Hebrews 13:15-16)

- 1. The nature of our sacrifices—the fruit of our lips.**
- 2. The regularity of our sacrifices—continually.**
- 3. The acceptance of our sacrifices—pleased.**

II. PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING PROMOTE PEACE.

“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called into peace. And be thankful.” (Colossians 3:15)

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:6-7)

- 1. Praise and Peace are found in the same heart.**
- 2. John Haggai, Prayer+Poise+PRAISE=Peace, How to Win Over Worry.**

III. PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING PRECEDE VICTORY.

“As they began to sing and praise, the Lord set ambushes against the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir who were invading Judah, and they were defeated.” (2 Chronicles 20:22)

- 1. Jehoshaphat is the King of Judah.**
- 2. The Moabites, Ammonites, and people of Mount Seir are the invaders.**
- 3. The king and the people of Judah sought the Lord.**
- 4. He taught them that Praise precedes victory—they went to battle with the choir in the lead. The praise was an expression of their inner confidence in the Lord.**
- 5. God gave the victory. He still does to those who praise Him.**

IV. PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING PREPARE US FOR HEAVEN.

- 1. Praise is the language of heaven.**

“In a loud voice they sang: Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise. Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing: To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for

ever and ever. The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and the elders fell down and worshipped. (Revelation 5:12-14)

2. Our praise now is practice so we will know the language of heaven.

If God took you to heaven today, would you be able to speak the language?