

Praising God?

Psalm 96

Peter Adam

What is the place of praise in your life?

[We thank someone for what they do, we praise them for who they are.]

- A praise-free life?
- A distracted life?
- Misdirected praise?
- Praising the LORD our God.

A healthy praise-filled life?

- Praising the LORD our God.
- Calling others to praise the LORD our God.
- Calling everyone and everything to praise the LORD our God.
- [Telling others that we praise God for them].
- [[Praising others...]].

‘Praise him, praise him, Alleluia; Praise with us the God of grace’.

Psalm 96

1-3 What?

‘Sing, sing, sing: a new song; all the earth.’

‘Praise ... proclaim... declare...; his name ... his glory ... his salvation.’

4-6 Why?

‘Worthy of praise [not like the nations’ ‘gods’], he made the heavens. Splendour, majesty, strength and glory.’

7-10 What?

‘Ascribe, ascribe, ascribe [know and give] ... glory and strength; bring an offering, worship, tremble; say, “The LORD reigns”’. ‘A firmly established world, and just judgement.’

11-13 Who and why?

‘Let the: heavens rejoice; earth be glad; sea resound; fields be jubilant; trees sing; all creation rejoice.’

‘For God comes to judge the world and the peoples in righteousness and faithfulness.’

And so?

‘A new song ... the LORD reigns’

1 Chronicles 16:23-33 [within 8-36].

Motivation to become a Christian?

- Gospel blessings.
- Avoid judgement.
- God is worthy!

The danger of not praising and thanking God for creation.

'For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened' [Romans 1:21, and see Acts 12:23].

Praising God for his just judgement

'Great and marvellous are your deeds, Lord God almighty. Just and true are your ways, King of the nations' [Revelation 15:3,4].

We are made to praise God.

'You stir us to take pleasure in praising you, because you have made us for yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in you.' St Augustine.

Of all praying, praising God is the least self-centred, and the most God-centered!

*'We love self for self's sake; then we love God for self's sake; finally we love God for God's sake'.
[Adapted from St Bernard of Clairvaux].*

Praising God should be part of our life.

'I think we delight to praise what we enjoy because the praise not merely expresses but completes the enjoyment; it is its appointed consummation.' C S Lewis.¹

Praising God, because he is worthy of our praise, is our eternal song.

To God the creator:

'You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.'

To the slaughtered and standing Lamb:

*'You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God, persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.'
'Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honour and glory and praise!'*

To God and the Lamb:

'To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honour and glory and power, for ever and ever! ... Amen...' [Revelation 4:11, 5:9-10,12-14].

'Praise him, praise him, Alleluia; Praise with us the God of grace'.

¹ *Reflections on the Psalms*. New York, Harcourt, Brace & Co., 1958, 93.