

Praise the LORD

Psalm 33

To rejoice in temporal comforts is dangerous, to rejoice in self is foolish, to rejoice in sin is fatal, but to rejoice in God is heavenly . . . Take away the Christian's power of praising God, and you make him a poor earth-worm, bound here with doubts, and fears, and cares; but let him but kindle in his soul the flame that burns in heaven of seraphic love to God, and away he mounts.

- Charles Spurgeon

- I. Introduction: _____ (1-3).
 - A. With _____ (2)
 - B. With _____ instruments (2-3)
 - C. With our _____ (3)
- II. Praise God for His _____ (4-9).
 - A. God's _____ (4-5)
 - B. God's _____ (6-9)
- III. Praise God for His _____ (10-19).
 - A. God's _____ for the nations (10-12)
 - B. God's _____ for the nations (13-19)
- IV. Conclusion: _____ in _____ (20-22)

These words may have been expressed by the congregation and choir as the song came to an end, a confession of faith in the living God. Because they had worshiped the Lord, they had peace in their hearts and could quietly wait for Him to work. Their hope had been strengthened, and they looked expectantly for Him to accomplish His purposes in them, through them, and for them. They had confidence in the Lord that He would send help when they needed it.

Worship should not only strengthen our inner peace and power, increase our hope, and give us greater confidence in the Lord, but it should also increase our joy. The psalm begins and ends with the theme of joy. Along with that blessing, we find our faith strengthened as we behold the beauty and glory of the Lord in our worship. "Let your unfailing love surround us" is the closing prayer (nlt), so we have the three great Christian virtues brought together: faith (v. 21), hope, and love (v. 22). It isn't enough to leave the place of worship simply "feeling good," because feelings are temporary and sometimes deceptive. If we find ourselves loving God and His people more, having greater faith and hope in the Lord, and going forth into the battle of life with greater confidence and joy, then our worship has accomplished what God wanted it to accomplish.

- Warren Wiersbe