

**1st Timothy 1: 17; “Now Unto the King Eternal”, Sermon # 9 in the series –
“To Honor God in the church”, Delivered on June 15th, 2014, by
Pastor Paul Rendall, in the Afternoon Worship Service.**

What we have heard in the reading of this verse is a doxology. Doxa is the Greek word for glory. A doxology is a short hymn or verse of declarative praise. It speaks glory or praise to the Triune God for His attributes or His works. This doxology extols both. The way that this verse is put together shows us that praise is due to God for His glorious attributes, and that praise ought to proceed from the fullness of our hearts and burst forth from our lips. So as we look at each of the 4 attributes mentioned here, the goal we will strive for is that each of us who has come to know God through our Lord Jesus Christ will learn the importance of declarative praise. Will you begin to engage in declarative praise, even as the Apostle Paul did?

1st of all – Paul declares that honor and glory belong to God because He is the King Eternal.

The Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, are eternal. From everlasting to everlasting He is God. All true and acceptable glory and praise is to be directed to this only True and Living God, as a King. Look with me at Psalm 47. “Oh, clap your hands, all your people!” “Shout to God with the voice of triumph!” “For the Lord Most High is awesome; He is a great King over all the earth.” “He will subdue the peoples under us, and the nations under our feet.” “He will choose our inheritance for us, the excellence of Jacob whom He loves.” The spirit of praise and glorying in God as a great King, a mighty warrior on behalf of His chosen people is clearly seen here. Not only were the people to sing praises to God, to sing praises with understanding, but they were to exult in exuberant praise by clapping their hands and shouting to God with the voice of triumph. Why? Because God is a great King over all the earth. He subdues the peoples under us and nations under our feet. This statement is prophetic. He not only did this for Israel in Old Testament times, but He will do it for us, His New Testament Church, in our time as well, through our preaching of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. If the conversion of the Apostle Paul was an example of patience, it was also an example of power; that God is well able to overcome all stubborn resistance to His righteous rule, when He decides to demonstrate His ability to do so in accordance with His eternal purposes regarding the kingdom of His Son. Our Triune God is a great King over all the earth. And our Lord Jesus Christ is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords.

So let’s look at an Old Testament example of God’s righteous and powerful rule as King, in and through the Person of His Son. Turn with me over to Joshua Chapter 5, verse 13 – “And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand.” “And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, ‘Are You for us or for our adversaries?’” “So He said, ‘No, but as Commander of the army of the Lord I have now come.’” “And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped, and said to Him, ‘What does my Lord say to His servant?’” “Then the Commander of the Lord’s army said to Joshua, ‘Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy.’” “And Joshua did so.” You can see that this Commander was none other than the pre-Incarnate Lord Jesus Christ who was the King and Commander over the Lord’s people even back then. He is described for us as, “A Man”, with a sword drawn in His hand. In that day, He would lead Joshua and the forces of Israel into battle against those peoples of the land of Canaan who stood opposed to them; He would lead them to victory over their enemies and His. In the context of the verses that we are studying this afternoon we can see that “in Paul first, the Lord Jesus Christ would show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.” (verse 16) Christ’s perfect patience being shown toward Paul, before He was converted, is quite

astonishing. And His perfect patience with Paul teaching him and leading him to become an Apostle, even though very insufficient in himself was the main reason that Paul broke out into this doxology of praise.

He had obtained mercy, and the saving help of the Lord Jesus. And our Christ would patiently teach him how to have and to exercise faith, and a good conscience, and how to wage a good spiritual warfare. And Paul would pass on to Timothy what was indeed the strength of his ministry; it was His faith in Christ, and obedience to His word. After this doxology in verse 17, Paul says to him: "This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare. See how Christ the King's being with Joshua and the forces of Israel in Joshua 6 typifies His great victories in New Testament times over all the nations and peoples of the world, with the gospel. "Now Jericho was securely shut up because of the children of Israel; none went out, and none came in." "And the Lord said to Joshua: 'See!' "I have given Jericho into your hand, its king, and the mighty men of valor." "You shall march around the city, all you men of war; you shall go all around the city once." "This you shall do six days." "And seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of ram's horns before the ark." "But the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priest shall blow the trumpets." "It shall come to pass, when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, that all the people shall shout with a great shout; then the wall of the city will fall down flat." "And the people shall go up every man straight before him."

"Then Joshua the son of Nun called the priests and said to them, "Take up the ark of the covenant, and let seven priests bear seven trumpets of ram's horns before the ark of the Lord." "And he said to the people, 'Proceed, and march around the city, and let him who is armed advance before the ark of the Lord.'" "So it was, when Joshua had spoken to the people, that the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns before the Lord advanced and blew the trumpets, and the ark of the covenant of the Lord followed them." "The armed men went before the priest who blew the trumpets and the rear guard came after the ark, while the priest continued blowing the trumpets." "Now Joshua had commanded the people, saying, 'You shall not shout or make any noise with your voice, nor shall a word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I say to you, 'Shout!'" "Then you shall shout." "So he had the ark of the Lord circle the city, going around it once." "Then they came into the camp and lodged in the camp." "And Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the Lord." "Then seven priests bearing seven trumpets of ram's horns before the ark of the Lord went on continually and blew with the trumpets." "And the armed men went before them." "But the rear guard came after the ark of the Lord, while the priests continued blowing the trumpets." "And the second day they marched around the city once and returned to the camp." "So they did six days." "But it came to pass on the seventh day that they rose early, about the dawning of the day, and marched around the city seven times in the same manner." "On that day only they marched around the city seven times." "And the seventh time it happened, when the priest blew the trumpets, that Joshua said to the people: 'Shout, for the Lord has given you the city!'"

Notice here why it was that Israel was to shout; it was that the Lord had given them the city, and that they had followed His implicit instructions concerning what they were to do. The armed men were to march around the city once a day for six days, but during that time they were to be quiet and not to say a word for six days. On the seventh day they were to march around it seven times, and then at the command of Joshua, they were to shout, and the walls would fall flat. The seven priests were to blow the seven trumpets of ram's horns only on this seventh day, and they would bear the ark of the Lord with them. And the trumpets would be blown and the people would shout at Joshua's command. This shows us just how much our spiritual victories with the gospel, among the nations, depend upon the power of our great King. We must always

be ready and willing to preach and blow the trumpet of the gospel and wage spiritual warfare, but the King alone can give us the victory. And we should shout out our victory in Christ at the right time. The shout of the people declared the people's praise for the power of their King.

Turn with me over to Psalm 29, verse 1. "Give unto the Lord, O you mighty ones, give unto the Lord glory and strength." "Give unto the Lord the glory due to His name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness." "The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders; the Lord is over many waters." "The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty." "The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars, yes, the Lord splinters the cedars of Lebanon." "He makes them also skip like a calf, Lebanon and Sirion like a young wild ox." "The voice of the Lord divides the flames of fire." "The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the Wilderness of Kadesh." "The voice of the Lord makes the deer give birth, and strips the forests bare; and in His temple everyone says, 'Glory!'" "The Lord sat enthroned at the Flood, and the Lord sits as King forever." "The Lord will give strength to His people; the Lord will bless His people with peace." We are commanded in the first 2 verses to give praise and glory to God. We are to especially remember what He does through and by His voice; that is, the Spirit of God using the Word of God. And what are we to remember about God when we praise Him? Remember that He sat enthroned at the Flood. The flood of Noah's day where all flesh perished on the earth because the thoughts and intents of every person who drowned were only evil continually. If you praise God, if you come to worship, remember also to repent of your sins.

In 1st Samuel 4: 5 Hophni and Phineas no doubt shouted, too, when the ark came into the camp, but they perished that day and the battle was lost because of their sins. We are not like the charismatics and others who glory in shouting, and clapping, and dancing, and a theatrical worship, but we must learn to engage in exuberant praise because God expects it; not to please ourselves, or our flesh, but to honor His glorious attributes. They praised the Lord in the midst of battle; yes, they shouted and clapped their hands. Can we not say in reverence – "Praise God", "Yes!", and "Hallelujah!"? Let us understand that the Eternal God has had plans for the exaltation of His Son, and His Son's kingdom from all eternity. These plans and purposes formed long ago in eternity past will come to full fruition during the latter day of this Church age. Listen to Thomas Scott on Joshua 6. "The doctrine of a crucified Savior, God manifested in the Flesh, as the only foundation of a sinner's hope of acceptance and the only source of sanctifying grace; preached by ministers, frequently of obscure birth and moderate abilities, and destitute of the advantages of eminent learning and or eloquence; sometimes even homely in their appearance and address; and who are themselves conscious of much unworthiness, and insufficiency for so arduous and important an employ: —This I say, from generation to generation, in every country of the world, has been the Lord's ordinary method of accomplishing those purposes, which philosophers, moralists, and law-givers, have attempted in vain; namely, of teaching numbers "to do good who have been accustomed to do evil." "The disregarded Trumpet blown by the despised minister, the preaching of the cross, which is foolishness to them that perish, is only the token: the operation is from God." "When the signal is given in simple dependence upon the exceeding greatness of His mighty power, it becomes indeed mighty through Him, and Satan's strongholds fall before it. Thus, at different periods, have heathen idolatry and Popish superstition sunk before this Trumpet's feeble blast, attended with the shout, the fervent untied prayers, of the true Israel. At some future period, (commencing early in the seventh thousand years,) this gospel shall be preached far more earnestly, more generally, and more successfully than ever; all Satan's remaining bulwarks shall fall down to the ground; and the kingdoms of the earth shall become the kingdoms of the Lord and of His Christ." "In the meantime the gospel is never preached in vain, in any nation, city, or village, by ministers of any name who simply seek the glory of God and the salvation of souls." This is why

we also ought to break out in benedictory praise to God, because He is eternal and His plans and purposes shall not fail.

Now, the 2nd Attribute of God that ought to evoke exuberant praise from us is that God is Immortal.

To be immortal is not only that God has an eternal existence; no beginning and no ending; but He is perpetual Life itself; perfect in wisdom and power and holiness. He is the self-sufficient, infinite, "I am", who will never die or grow old; He will never become tired or weak. We should see first how this affects us in that we are utterly dependent upon Him for life breath, and all things. In Job 34: 14 it says, "That if He should set His heart on it; if He should determine to do so; If He should gather to Himself His spirit and His breath, all flesh would perish together, and man would return to dust." We are upheld moment by moment in life. Our very breath is in His hand. The implications of God's being immortal affect our praises in this way. Psalm 115, verse 17 – "The dead do not praise the Lord, nor any who go down into silence." "But we will bless the Lord from this time forth and forevermore." "Praise the Lord!" If we are alive spiritually in Christ Jesus we will make praise our daily cultivation in our hearts. Psalm 146, verse 2 – "Praise the Lord O my soul!" "While I live I will praise the Lord; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being." And the hymn writer says: "And when from death I'm freed I'll sing on, Ill sing on; and when from death I'm freed I'll sing on." "And to eternity I'll sing on." Why? Because God is immortal, because Christ is raised from the dead, and death no longer hold Him. It will not hold me! The 3rd and the 4th Attributes of God we will save for next week.