

## **Ps. 34:1-3 (LD 47) "All Kinds of Hallowing"**

**For the Children:** When you first start studying a subject, you may think it's too easy – "baby stuff." Later, you go on in your study and find that there is much more to it than what you learned in your 1<sup>st</sup> year of schooling. If you follow that subject through to university, you realize that it can get very deep and very difficult. But with such subjects, there is always a limit to what can be known. When we learn about God, there is no limit. We will never learn all there is to know about Him, even in eternity. Therefore, there will always be more to praise God about. Heaven will not be boring! We will be too busy learning about the Lord and praising Him! **Questions:** What are some of the different aspects of praise? Mention some of the things for which we can praise God. Why do we need to be humble to be able to praise God?

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### **Introduction:**

#### **First Point: What It Means to "Hallow" God's Name**

- 1) All Manner of Praise: To hallow God's Name is to praise Him for His holiness – His unique character and works. The different words for this in the text reflect different aspects of what it means to praise God.
  - a) To bless (v.1a): to recognize His power to bless us, as the Source of all blessings.
  - b) To praise and to boast (vss. 1b and 2a): to be sincerely and deeply thankful for the greatness of His attributes and works; to "boast" in Him is to declare that no one else can compare with Him. These 2 terms are forms of the same word.
  - c) To "magnify" (v.3a): to declare and promote the greatness of His Name.
  - d) To "exalt" (v.3b): To cause His Name to be raised on high.We need to know God from His Word in order to offer this praise. When we make the first request of the Lord's prayer, we are implicitly asking God to grant us that saving knowledge through Christ. See Q122 on this.
- 2) Life as Praise: Q122 points out that we are called to praise God with our lives as well as our lips. This ties in with the word "praise" in v.1b and "boast" in v.2a, which implies a response that is deep and sincere. Moreover, if we want to cause others to praise God's Name rather than blaspheming, we need to have a life of praise that fits with our words of praise.
- 3) Continual Praise: A life of praise will result in continual praise (v.1). That is a foretaste of the continual praise of heaven, which will never be interrupted by sin. Nor will it ever become boring. The variety of matters for which we can praise God; the variety of aspects of praise itself; and the fact that every attribute and work of God has infinite depths – this will prevent boredom or fruitless repetition.

#### **Second Point: Those Who Are Called to Hallow God's Name**

- 1) We Are Commanded to Do So: The imperative of praise is indicated by the words, "Hallowed be..." "Magnify" (v.3) is also an imperative. "let us exalt" is an exhortation. We do not do so only because of a command, however, but because it is our deepest desire to praise God – as the word "praise" implies. Q122 interprets the First Request as a plea to God to help *us* to direct our living in such a way that He is honoured – which implies that our heart is willing.
- 2) We Are Commanded Individually and Corporately: Ps.134 alternates between the call to the individual and the call to "us," the church, to offer praise to God. God deserves the praise of all Creation. We also desire others to join with us in lifting up His Name. That also benefits our neighbour – especially our brethren. It brings them joy, satisfaction and encouragement too – the "hallelujah word" again. There is something special about the assembly of God's people jointly praising Him with a loud voice (Ps.35:18).
- 3) The Humble Respond: The humble (the afflicted and helpless who see their need of God) are the ones who hear this praise and rejoice (v.2). If we think we can bless ourselves, are self-satisfied or think we are high and mighty, we will not praise God readily. Remembering that we are helpless sinners and that God's Name can never be magnified enough should help to keep us humble.

### **Conclusion:**