

SINGING PRAISES TO OUR GOD

INTRO: The Young Peoples societies are inviting our congregation to a special request program this evening. We give thanks for this opportunity! We give thanks that it is our young people that are involved in this activity. But this singing together as a congregation is an activity that we are able to engage in every worship service, but also one that we should engage in every day as individual believers and as covenant families. What, how, and why are all questions that should be asked, and are answered in our text.

I. **FOR WHAT OUGHT WE TO PRAISE GOD**

- A. The Psalmist leads God's people to sing praises "to show forth **God's lovingkindness**".
1. Lovingkindness is a very graphic word used to describe God's mercy for his people, arising out of his electing love.
 2. Lovingkindness is God's love for his people in distress, even though they are not deserving of it.
 3. Oh how God loves his people, this is especially true when they are in trouble.
 4. In his love he shows them kindness, delivering them out of their troubles and sorrows.
- B. The Psalmist leads God's people to sing praises "to show forth **God's faithfulness**."
1. God has made promises to his people. God promised that he would be their God and the God of their seed after.
 2. God promised that their seed would be as many as the stars in the sky.
 3. God promised to Abraham the land of Canaan, a land flowing with milk in honey: material blessings a picture.
 4. In answer to this, God brought them out of Egypt, and later again out of Babylon that they might possess the land.
 5. In the Passover feast, God passed over the rooftops of houses that had blood over the door: the blood of a lamb.
- C. The Psalmist leads God's people to rejoice in **God's work**: esp. of destroying their enemies and saving them.
1. The ungodly nations surrounding Israel threaten to destroy them and remove their name.
 2. Those nations often with superior military might sought to take the land of promise away from Israel.
 3. But again and again the Lord defended and preserved Israel, often with astonishing miracles.
 4. So Israel continued to enjoy the blessings of God's covenant with them.
- D. We sing praises as his **covenant** people.
1. God has also established his covenant of grace with us and our children. The OT types give way to the NT realities.
 2. God gives us great blessings in Jesus Christ: the forgiveness of sins, new life, righteousness, and heaven.
 3. God has preserved us in the covenant. Enemies continue to threaten: whether false doctrine or the pleasures of sin.
 4. God defends and preserves his church, safe and secure, within his covenant: this is of God's mercy and faithfulness.

II. **HOW OUGHT WE TO PRAISE THE LORD**

- A. It is found in thanksgiving.
1. The word used by the Psalmist has the basic meaning of "pointing out".
 2. We point away from ourselves to our God. We point to God's lovingkindness and faithfulness.
 3. We point this out to God. We recount his goodness to us!
 4. We point this out to one another as God's people and to peoples around us! How many are our blessings!
 5. We are to enumerate them, spell them out, speak of them. Having done so, we praise God.
- B. Enumerating our blessings.
1. We enumerate our blessings, in our prayers before God's throne of grace. "Count your many blessings..."
 2. We do this in our conversations in our families to our children, and amongst the members of the congregation.
 3. We do this as part of our witness and testimony to the world.
 4. We do this in our singing: the Psalmist says, "...give thanks...sing praises unto thy name O most High."
 5. When do we sing? Do you carry a melody in your heart? Do we sing in our family worship? Eagerly as congregation?
- C. It is a tireless activity.
1. This song was sung on the Sabbath Day by the congregation of Israel at the Temple after the return from captivity.
 2. The whole Sabbath Day is a resting in the glorious work of God in our redemption, from beginning to end.
 3. In the morning.... every night:
 4. In the morning we sing of God's mercy. In the evening we sing of God's faithfulness.
 5. In other words, it is a continuous praising of God. God, not self. This is our song, our worship, our life!
 6. We use our voices, we use instruments of praise, young and old, male and female: blending together in song.
 7. Tonight for our special song request, mine is #306 "Praise God ye servants of the Lord, Praise, praise his name..."

III. **WHY OUGHT WE TO SING PRAISES**

- A. The Psalmist says that "it is a good thing to give thanks and to sing praises.
1. There are a number of ways in which singing God's praises could be good:
 2. It could be good because it is right, it is to be expected of those who know God and tasted his mercy and faithfulness.
 3. It could be good because it is enjoyable and pleasant to sing his praises.
 4. But here in our text the Psalmist has in mind that is good because it is beneficial for us.
- B. How is singing God's praises is beneficial?
1. How often were not God's children in the wilderness grumbling and complaining of their lot in life, forgetting God?
 2. They were forgetting all the wonders that they had seen and experienced of God's work.
 3. The Psalmist says, "for thou, LORD hast made me glad through thy work: I will triumph in the works of thy hands."
 4. What about you and me? How often do we wallow in self pity, complain of our lot, or are fearful of tomorrow?
 5. Sing the praises of God with a thankful heart and it will lift you up to heavenly joys: increases faith, hope, love, trust.
- C. What songs are we teaching our children to sing?
1. Are we teaching our children to sing God's songs?
 2. Or are we letting the world teach our youth their songs? It is good to sing God's praises!