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The **FULL EDITION** of approximately 10-12 pages includes comprehensive excerpts from the program, fully quoted Scriptures, graphics, illustrations, and even extra study points that time prevented us from covering during the live program.



What About Praise?

<u>Psalms 9:1</u>: (KJV) I will praise thee, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will show forth all thy marvelous works.



Over the past several weeks we have been focusing on a lot of heavy stuff - the Middle East meltdown, the earthquake and tsunami in Japan, and Islam. Through it all we have tried to maintain a focus on the goodness and plan of our Almighty God, continually reminding ourselves that He not only knows the turmoil of our world, He also has a concrete plan to bring us through it. This realization brings us to a very unique place, considering the world's condition - it is a place where praise and gratitude can and should flourish. So stay with us as we are focus on just those things - praise and gratitude.

What is praise?

General dictionary definitions tell us that praise means:

- 1. An expression of approval or commendation;
- 2. The glorifying and honoring of a god, ruler, hero, etc.

Praise is relevant in many areas of life: Family, friends, co-workers, students, teachers, soldiers, medical workers, employees, employers, athletes, artists, builders, designers, volunteers, leaders and followers, lawyers and even politicians can all be deserving of praise at times.

Whom do we praise - what do we praise - why do we praise - when do we praise - where do we praise and how do we praise - all are important considerations.

"I Will Exalt You," Hillsong

I will exalt You - You are my God - My hiding place - my safe refuge - my treasure, Lord, you are - My friend and King, annointed one, Most Holy, Because You are with me - I will not fear.

Whom do we praise: Psalms 63:1 What do we praise: Psalms 63:2 Why do we praise: Psalms 63:3 When do we praise: Psalms 63:4 Where do we praise: Psalms 63:6 How do we praise: Psalms 63:7,5

Does who we praise change how we praise?

Psalms 86:12:

Four points on discerning genuine praise:

- 1. True praise and flattery are entirely different things... Praise has depth and flattery does not. Matthew 23:5-7
- 2. When we seek praise, it is because of our own self-centered attitude. Don't be in a position of looking for the praise of others.
- 3. When we give insincere praise, it is just empty flattery and often self-serving.
- 4. Praise therefore, is real, humble and is very powerful both for the giver and the receiver.

The following is a beautiful example of true praise - the writer was David, a man after God's own heart:

A Majestic God - Psalm 8, What is Man? BluefishTV.com

Psalms 8:1: These Psalms start with the biggest picture imaginable - glory above the heavens.

Psalms 8:2: They then take us to the smallest and weakest human form to see God's will.

Psalms 8:3-4: We compare the two extremes in awe - this is praise!

<u>Psalms 8:5</u>: We realize the miraculous gifts humanity is given. We are given the ability to think, choose, and not just be instinctive.

<u>Psalms 8:6-9</u>: We realize the responsibility we are given and look to our God for the guidance to fulfill it!

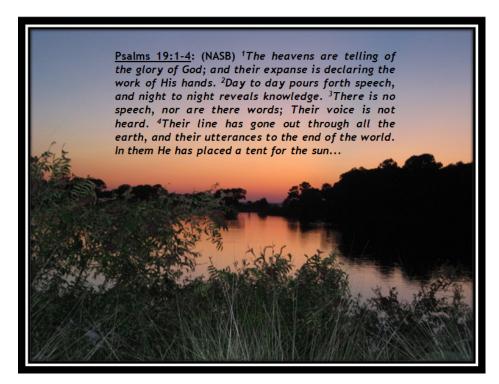
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How may our lives be a living praise to God?

Psalms 16:1-11

Chisel our lives, Amena Brown - BluefishTV.com

- Your word on our hearts your name on our lips;
- All of who You are is just too much for us;
- It amazes us that a God who could so easily overtake us, takes us, breaks us and makes us more like him;
- Every day you chisel our character changing the picture of our lives by the brushstroke.



The *silent* glory of the heavens **shout** aloud to the power and glory of God!

Your Masterpiece, Amena Brown, BluefishTV.com

- You want us to be your masterpiece;
- So we lay down our selfishness all agendas;
- We take up heavy crosses we take sips of the bitter cup of denying self and we cry out to you;
- We need you to heal our land;
- We want you to scatter us like seed that every soul in this world would know your eternity.



God's glory is unique and rightly so.

Isaiah 42:8: I am the Lord: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another... Luke 11:2: ...Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed by thy name...



Conditions for the healing of the land. God does not need our praise, we need Him.

2 Chronicles 7:14: If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.



We should adopt this outlook: Psalms 19:10-14



www.soultemposingers.com

Jerry Brunson, Tony Burnett, Kevin and Phillip Mitchell

The cover of their CD shows them in suits, walking away from the camera, briefcases in hand. When I first saw this cover the message was clear - it's not about them, it is about our Father's business. What better way to focus on praise than to have these four here with us to sing praises to God!

Psalms 101:1-4



The four members of SOUL TEMPO - Jerry Brunson, Tony Burnett, brothers Kevin and Phillip Mitchell - grew up together and the strong chemistry between them is reflected in their great sound and their onstage charisma.

Things first started to coalesce for the foursome when they got the chance to audition for film producer/director Penny Marshall for her movie then in production. Ms. Marshall became an instant fan, as she remains to this day, and Soul Tempo was given an on-camera singing part in "The Preachers Wife," with Whitney Houston and Denzel Washington.

The group has worked hard to achieve their rapidly increasing notoriety. In addition to previous recordings, their list of appearances is wide-ranging, from the Apollo Theater to Disney to the Kennedy Center and Radio City Music Hall and many other national and overseas venues.



"He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother," Soul Tempo

Psalms 95:1-6

Philippians 2:3-4

What God have you chosen to praise? There are lots of mighty ones and mighty things in this world.

What does your heart tell you? Your praise follows your heart.

What do your words tell you? What kinds of things do you say on a regular basis? Your words will reflect what you praise in your life.

What do your actions tell you? What you do in your life reflects the things you praise.

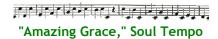
What does your home tell you? Look around your house and see what's in it. It tells you what is important to you.

"Let it Be," Soul Tempo



<u>Philippians 2:5-11</u>: This shows us the humility of Jesus, coming from heaven to accomplish a mission that would eventually praise and honor God.

We need to be praising!



How can we praise God right now?

Praise to God through our actions! 2 Corinthians 9:10-15: Praise is contagious! We can sow seeds of goodness and righteousness for others that will in turn encourage them to praise as well. We have the ability to create in others their giving thanks to God.



"The Lord's Prayer," Soul Tempo

<u>Psalms 100:1-5</u>: Maybe things are not perfect in your life, but start changing it by looking at something bigger than you are - the glory of God!

So, what about praise?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!