

100 BIBLE LESSONS

These lessons were originally given at Manila, Philippines, in 1958 and 1959 by former missionary to China, Alban Douglas. Give these lessons to people you visit, youth groups, hospital patients, church visitors and new members. Use them in Sunday School, bus ministry, jail services, nursing homes, Christian schools, small discussion groups and many other places. God's Word will answer your questions and help solve your problems.

LESSON 12 – PRAISE

INTRODUCTION

Notes taken from Mr. Earl Bittenbender and the New Topical Text Book.

What is the most important thing in life? To earn a living? To get saved and go to heaven, To serve God? I believe the answer is to praise God.

The shorter catechism's first question is, "What is the chief end of man?", with this answer: "Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever."

Isa. 43:7, *Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory...* Created to praise and glorify the Lord day by day.

Our life should be a song of praise to the glory of God. I Cor. 10:31, *Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.*

Is praising God a selfish desire on God's part? Certainly not. Praise was the purpose for which He created us. We ought to voluntarily give praise daily.

I. THE MEANING OF PRAISE

Dictionary: *To bestow approval upon; to honor ; to worship; to glorify; commendation.*

The Hebrew word "Yadah" means, "To stretch out the hand," and is translated "praise." That is, to hold out the hands in reverence, to open the hands and let go of everything, just stand and praise God open-handedly.

Our problem is to let go of things, to let go of our problems and service and give ourselves to praising the Lord.

We only praise something that we honor and prize highly. If we hold the Lord in the highest state of respect and admiration it will be easy to praise Him.

II. PRAISE IS OBLIGATORY

1. Upon angels. Psa. 103:20, *Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word.* See also Psa. 148:2.
2. Upon saints. Psa. 30:4, *Sing unto the LORD, O ye saints of His, and give thanks at the remembrance of His holiness.* Psa. 149:5, *Let the saints be joyful in glory: let them sing aloud upon their beds.*
3. Upon nations. Psa. 117:1, *O praise the LORD, all ye nations: praise Him, all ye people.*
4. Upon children. Matt. 21:16, *...out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise.* See also Psa. 8:2.
5. Upon high and low. Psa. 148:1, 11, *Praise ye the LORD. Kings of the earth, and all people; princes, and all judges of the earth.*
6. Upon young and old. Psa. 148:1, 12, *Praise ye the LORD. Both young men, and maidens; old men, and children.*
7. Upon all creation. Psa. 150:6, *Let everything that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD.* Psa. 148:1-10, God gets praise from: the heavens, the heights, angels, hosts, sun, moon, stars, the earth, dragons, deeps, fire, hail, snow, vapours, stormy winds, hills, mountains, fruit trees, cedar trees, beasts, cattle, creeping things and birds.

III. THE REASONS WHY WE PRAISE THE LORD

1. Because of God's majesty. Isa. 24:14, *They shall lift up their voice, they shall sing for the majesty of the LORD...*
2. Because of God's glory. Psa. 138:5, *Yea, they shall sing in the ways of the LORD: for great is the glory of the LORD.*
3. Because of God's excellency. Psa. 148:13, *Let them praise the name of the LORD: for his name alone is excellent; his glory is above the earth and heaven.*
4. Because of God's greatness. Psa. 145:3, *Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable.*
5. Because of the Lord's holiness. Ex. 15:11, *Who is like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods? who is like Thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?*

6. Because of God's wisdom. Dan. 2:20, *Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are His.*
7. Because of God's power. Psa. 21:13, *Be Thou exalted, LORD, in Thine own strength: so will we sing and praise Thy power.*
8. Because of God's goodness. Psa. 107:8, 15, 21, 31, *Oh that men would praise the LORD for His goodness.* This is important for it is repeated four times.
9. Because of God's mercy. 2 Chr. 20:21, *And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the LORD, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the LORD; for His mercy endureth for ever.* We are saved through His mercy.
10. Because of God's loving kindness and truth. Psa. 138:2, *I will worship toward Thy holy temple, and praise Thy name for Thy lovingkindness and for Thy truth: for Thou hast magnified Thy word above all Thy name.*
11. Because of God's faithfulness and truth. Isa. 25:1, *O LORD, Thou art my God; I will exalt Thee, I will praise Thy name; for Thou hast done wonderful things; Thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth.*
12. Because He has provided salvation. Luke 1:68-69, *Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for He hath visited and redeemed His people, And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David.*
13. Because of God's wonderful works. Psa. 150:2, *Praise Him for His mighty acts.* See also Psa. 107:8, 15, 21, 31. These works include creation, redemption, consolation, just judgment, true counsel, keeping His promises, pardon of sin, spiritual health, constant preservation, protection, answered prayer, the hope of glory, all physical, material and spiritual blessings.

IV. HOW TO PRAISE THE LORD

1. With the understanding. Psa. 47:7, *...sing ye praises with understanding.* 1 Cor. 14:15.
2. With the soul. Psa. 103:1, *Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless His holy name.*
3. With the whole heart. Psa. 9:1, *I will praise Thee, O LORD, with my whole heart...*
4. With the lips. Psa. 63:3, *...my lips shall praise Thee.* Psa. 119:171.
5. With the mouth. Psa. 51:15, *...my mouth shall shew forth Thy praise.*

6. With joy. Psa. 63:5, ...*my mouth shall praise Thee with joyful lips.*
7. With gladness. 2 Chr. 29:30, *Moreover Hezekiah the king and the princes commanded the Levites to sing praise unto the LORD with the words of David, and of Asaph the seer. And they sang praises with gladness, and they bowed their heads and worshipped.* Not mere mechanical praise, but joyful, heartfelt praise.
8. With thankfulness. Psa. 147:7, *Sing unto the LORD with thanksgiving.*
9. Continually. Psa. 71:6, *My praise shall be continually of Thee.*
10. To the end of life. Psa. 104:33, *I will sing unto the LORD as long as I live: I will sing praise to my God while I have my being.*
11. More and more. Psa. 71:14, *But I will hope continually, and will yet praise thee more and more.* The longer we live, more and more praiseworthy things come to us.
12. Day by day. 2 Chr. 30:21, ...*and the Levites and the priests praised the LORD day by day, singing with loud instruments unto the LORD.*

V. SOME THINGS FOR WHICH TO PRAISE THE LORD

We should praise the Lord for everything, Phil. 4:6. The true Christian is one who can trust and praise the Lord even through blinding tears. It is enough to know that God plans and doeth all things well. Rom. 8:28.

CONCLUSION

Perhaps we realize that we have not praised enough. Pray that God will teach us to praise Him much more in the future, beginning today. Pas. 51:15 , O LORD, open Thou my lips. Cause me to praise Thee more and more.

Praise is the precious privilege of every born again believer in Jesus Christ. Sing a great deal. This is one good way to praise the Lord. If people praise us for our accomplishments, let us be sure to pass the praise to HIM. It is easy to praise one who is truly worthy of praise, and Jesus is worthy, Rev. 5:9. It is easier for God to get money or service than praise from His children. Praise is an attitude of the heart. 1 Cor. 10:31, Whatsoever we do – do for His glory.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the chief end of man?
2. What is the basic meaning of the Hebrew word, “yadah”?
3. List 7 classes of people upon whom praise is obligatory.

4. To what extent is praise optional?
5. Mention 10 things about God that we should praise.
6. What are the 2 basic works of God for which we should praise Him?
7. Name 5 parts of the body that should be utilized in praising God.
8. List 2 handmaidens of praise.
9. Is it true that praise reaches a crescendo at conversion and then tapers off?
10. Is this statement good or bad, "My child is sick – praise the Lord"? Explain.