

In Favor of Praise

Bob Young

Text: 2 Chr 17:1 – 21:3, specifically 2 Chronicles 20

[Note: The following sermon notes were used in a worship service where the format used some alternating song and sermon. The second part of the worship is more typically sermonic.]

Introduction

Songs

Comments

The heart and character of King Jehoshaphat that led him to praise God in the midst of pressures.

- He sought after a relationship with God, 20:3*
- He was concerned about obedience to God, 17:3-4*
- His heart was in the right place, 17:6; 19:6*
- He was concerned about good thinking/teaching/theology, 17:9*
- He was concerned about focus, 19:4*

Part 1--SEEKING THE LORD, 2 Chr 20:1-4

Comments

Praise never comes unless we are seeking God; we were created for relationship with God

Songs

Part 2--PRAISE IN PRAYER, 2 Chr 20:5-12a

Comments

Begin by acknowledging God's greatness, power, rule, history, majesty

Jesus and Paul taught us by example to include praise in prayer

Fundamentally, prayer is communion with God.

Blessed is the one who longs for God more than for what God can do for us.

God transforms us when we praise Him in prayer.

Songs

Prayer

HAVING THE RIGHT FOCUS, 2 Chr. 20:12b-13

Comments

No value in looking around, or looking in, only in looking up.

The focus of worship and praise must be God and Jesus.

Praise is primarily a response to God. We are not trying to get God's attention.

Song

Communion/Offering

BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD, 2 Chr 20:14-19

Comment/Sermon

The Holy Spirit activates worship.

If we are to praise acceptably and be formed spiritually, it will not be without the help of the Holy Spirit (Phil. 3:3).

Forms and rituals do not produce worship; there is no worship until Spirit touches spirit.

PRAISE THE LORD—JUST DO IT! 2 Chr 20:20-22

Comment/Sermon

Sometimes we do not feel like praising the Lord (“fear in the camp”), so the phrase is appropriate regarding praise: just do it.

When we praise God, He blesses us (vv. 26-30).

CONCLUSION

Comment/Sermon

Nothing has the power to continually transform our lives like genuine praise.

Let us with David proclaim the words of Ps. 103:1, Bless the Lord O My Soul, let all that is within me bless His holy name.

Invitation Song