



GOOD NEWS GUIDE

REMEMBER: **GOD LOVES YOU!**

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Would you like to receive an extra copy of the "Good News Guide" each month to share with a friend, neighbor, or family member? Let me know.

Praise the LORD!

*Praise the LORD!
Praise the LORD, O my soul!
I will praise the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God
while I have my being ...
Praise the LORD! (Psalm 146 ESV)*

Sometimes we Christians say, "Praise the LORD!" when all we really mean is, "Thank goodness!" There is nothing wrong with that, but we must be careful not to let that become a substitute for actually praising our Heavenly Father and our Lord Jesus.

Let me propose, and try to answer, some questions.

What does it mean to praise the LORD?

Start with this child's table grace: "God is great, God is good, and we thank Him for our food. Amen."

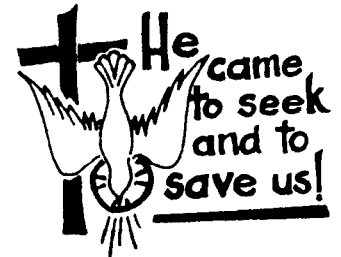


Praising God starts with focusing on and appreciating God's greatness — His infinite power, the wonder of His creation, the beauty of His holiness, and much more. *Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. (1 Chronicles 29:11)* And His goodness — His forgiveness, gentleness, kindness, generosity; His constant and unconditional love. *But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. (Psalm 86:15)*

God made us in His own image, and He created us specifically to live forever in intimate, joyful relationship with Him in Eternity. *For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, (1 Thessalonians 5:9)*

God the Son, Immanuel, God with us, lowered himself and became a human being. He became one of us, in order to suffer and die so that our sins could be forgiven. *"For God so loved the world, that he gave*

his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." (John 3:16-17) He also



came to show us what God is like, and how we should live to please and honor Him. *"Whoever has seen me [Jesus] has seen the Father." (John 14:9)*

And then, as we appreciate Father and Son, by the help of the Holy Spirit, we praise Him with our words, spoken to ourselves, our families, and our neighbors and, as we are given opportunities, to others as well.

Who should praise the LORD?

Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD! (Psalm 150) Yes, every human being should praise God. But I want to emphasize that you, the one who is reading this, you should praise the LORD! You will bless the LORD and bless yourself by praising Him.

Why should we praise the LORD?

Here are some of the reasons:

1. God is absolutely worthy of our praise. No matter how extravagantly we honor Him with our words and with our heart's devotion, He deserves every bit of it, and infinitely more. *"Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created." (Revelation 4:11)*
2. God's Word tells us, especially in the Psalms, to praise the LORD and sing His praises. *It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O Most High; to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night (Psalm 92:1-2)*
3. Our praise is an offering, a sacrifice, that is pleasing to God. *Through him then let us*

continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. (Hebrews 13:15).

4. The more we praise God, the more completely we will align ourselves with the truth, and love Him, and treasure our relationship with Him, and trust Him. As we trust Him more, our faith will get stronger.
5. Our thoughtful and sincere praise of God can be a powerful witness to those who are not walking with Him, both non-Christians and "lukewarm" fellow Christians. *For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. (2 Corinthians 4:6) "... let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." (Matthew 5:15)*
6. Praising God is a powerful antidote to complaining and/or worrying, both of which are deadly. *Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. (Philippians 4:8)* What is purer, lovelier, more excellent than our God?

When and where should we praise God?

The obvious answer is, "any time" or "all the time" and "wherever we are." But there is more we can say about that.

It's wise and helpful to have certain times of the day and of the week that we set aside for Bible study and prayer. It's good to begin each of those times with praise, just to remind ourselves that we know who God is, and how great and good He is. We can start by reading from selected Psalms; or, if we can do it, listening to praise songs..

It is also good to make a habit of praising God outside of those scheduled times. For example, when we wake up each morning, we can begin the day with thoughts of God and words of praise. Likewise, as we lie down to take our night's rest, we can end each day with words of praise in our minds and on our lips.

As to where, of course we praise Him in church, but we should also be ready for opportunities to speak about His provision and His love wherever we are, especially during conversations with others. Everyone needs to hear the truth about our wonderful God.

How should we praise the LORD?

There are of course many different ways to praise our Lord. Let's mention some of them:

- Our attitude and our thoughts can be of praising God, instead of worries about our circumstances, or a litany of our needs and desires, or criticism of others. When we focus on God and His goodness, rather than on ourselves, we not only please Him, we also lift ourselves from a low place to a much higher place.
- Our words as we speak of God's goodness and greatness can make a big difference in the life of anyone who hears them — including ourselves. We must definitely speak aloud, and even sing, our praises to the Lord.
- Our acts of generosity and kindness are unspoken praise to God, who guides us and inspires us by the Holy Spirit. When such acts become habitual, we are praising Him indeed.
- When we are humble before God and do our best to be obedient to His commands, we are praising Him by honoring His will for our lives.



My brothers and sisters in Christ, I pray that we will all be given grace to praise God as we should, with our thoughts, our words, and our lives. Say with me,

I will sing
PRAISES
to the LORD!

Blessings to you all —

Brother Roland

If you have a question about Bible truth or the Christian life, I will gladly share my thoughts with you, and maybe also with the other readers of the "Good News Guide." Write to me. Please note: I do not have Bibles or study materials to send to you.

Brother Roland, P.O. Box 14, Fayetteville PA 17222

1 Chronicles Chapter 16

(selected verses)

*Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples!
Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wondrous works!
Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice!
Seek the Lord and his strength;
seek his presence continually!
Remember the wondrous works that he has done,
his miracles and the judgments he uttered,
O offspring of Israel his servant,
children of Jacob, his chosen ones!
He is the Lord our God;
his judgments are in all the earth.*



*Sing to the Lord, all the earth!
Tell of his salvation from day to day.
Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous works among all the peoples!
For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised,
and he is to be feared above all gods.
For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols,
but the Lord made the heavens.*



*Splendor and majesty are before him;
strength and joy are in his place.
Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength!
Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
bring an offering and come before him!
Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness;
tremble before him, all the earth;
yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved.*



*Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice,
and let them say among the nations, "The Lord reigns!"
Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
let the field exult, and everything in it!
Then shall the trees of the forest sing for joy
before the Lord, for he comes to judge the earth.
Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever!*

Praise the LORD

When we think of our awesome God, and the fact that **HE LOVES US!** ... we have to praise Him!

Puzzle:

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Words:

PRAISE THE LORD
O MY SOUL
AS LONG AS I LIVE
I WILL SING
PRAISE TO MY GOD
WHILE I AM ALIVE
WE MUST BE CAREFUL
NOT TO SUBSTITUTE
SIMPLY SAYING IT
FOR ACTUALLY DOING IT
OUR HEAVENLY FATHER
AND OUR LORD JESUS
ARE GREAT AND GOOD
AND TOTALLY WORTHY

OF ALL THE PRAISE
WE COULD EVER GIVE
WHEN WE FOCUS
ON WHO HE IS
ALL HIS GLORY
AMAZING POWER
WONDERFUL ARTISTRY
PURITY AND HOLINESS
ALL HE HAS DONE
HIS LOVING KINDNESS
SO SLOW TO ANGER
SO QUICK TO FORGIVE
AND THAT HE TRULY
LOVES EACH OF US

ENOUGH TO DIE
IN SHAME AND AGONY
SO THAT WE CAN BE
FOREVER WITH HIM
AND SHARE IN HIS JOY
O WONDERFUL FATHER
O PRECIOUS JESUS
TO BE WITH YOU
IS ALL WE NEED
PLEASE GIVE US GRACE
TO SAY YES ALWAYS
TO EVERY SINGLE THING
YOU ASK OF US
AMEN