

The Call to Praise Pt. 7

Psalm 34:1-10, CBC, Wednesday, November 8, 2023 **More Love to Thee O Christ 363**

I. **Personal Resolve to Praise** A. **In All Circumstances** this praise is heard B. **From My Mouth** ¹ I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth; talking about praise . . . C. **Rooted in Heart's Posture** ² My soul will make its boast in the LORD; psalmist's posture humbly focused on Lord as highest treasure, NOT on self and efforts/dreams II. **Public Effect of Personal Praise** A. **It Encourages the Humble** The humble will hear it and rejoice. Those dependent, not independent, because know can't deliver themselves, can wait for God & see mercies from God/others and rejoice B. **It Draws a Line Between the Praisers and those who won't.** ³ O magnify the LORD with me, And let us exalt His name together. This exposes hearts b/c those seeing God as good/great look to Him and find much to thank Him for—other's focused on what want/need and seek to get for self which directs away from God's gracious gifts don't feel like praising b/c aren't getting what want/think NEED; **what took place today that God would think you should praise Him for?** Psalmist says, I'm glad to tell you! III. **Testimony Backing the Praise vv. 4-7** A. **Problem** I have troubles/need of deliverance, I'm in danger, need rescue, I'm not safe or secure, need freedom from fears B. **Disposition and Action in midst of the problem** though I'm afflicted/needy, weak, yet even in this miserable state, I **Sought the Lord**, one noted, **faced fear with fear**; (exchanges terror with reverential fear of Lord)—trust He over all, this NOT beyond His power—therefore **look** to Him, **cry** to Him C. **God's work** He answered, **Delivered, rescues** not merely from troubles, but addressed fears! God stood guard watching His own, **angel of the Lord encamps** Spurgeon "On every side the watch is kept by warriors of sleepless eyes, and the Captain of the host is one whose prowess none can resist." P. 124; **Ps. 121 He who keepeth Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps** D. **Other's Testimony Aligns with Mine v. 5** ⁵ They looked to Him and were radiant, And their faces will never be ashamed. whenever faithful/humble turn to Lord, faces lightened; never be ashamed, something greater than fear, terror, gloom—NOT just change of circumstances, but eternal perspective where willing to wait to find goodness of Lord in circumstances; conclude from v. 5 that the **object of your faith changes you**, psalmist finds this in God alone! **What keeps us from finding hope and encouragement from this testimony?** **Feel that the weight of our own sin disqualifies us from encouragement from God**, mess of your impure responses to other's sin; if this is you, see mercy of God as David's actions might not have been godly, yet God gives even for those broken; Spurgeon **Sometimes too focused on self and what deliverance MUST look like** that can't see deliverance of Lord; but if focused on your problem, your goals, will miss His deliverance, b/c this deliverance doesn't come to all, captain sends His hosts to encamp around **those who fear Him**—**should elevate fearing Him in your mind**; we often not living life with posture of reverence—shown by fear of man; World Magazine 4/22/23 "Circling the Drain" Janie Cheaney talking about current therapeutic culture "Lightened perceptions of bias and discrimination are robustly associated with mental anguish, social strain, and adverse physical outcomes," according to an examination of the data in *American Affairs*. "The more people perceive themselves to be surrounded by others who harbor bias or hostility against them, and the more they view their life prospects as hostage to a system that is fundamentally rigged against them, the more likely they become to experience anxiety, depression, [and] psychogenic and psychosomatic health problems." **Put this in English** subtitle, clinging to victimhood will only lead to greater mental anguish (talks of approved practice in counseling of exploring ways you've been wronged and if possible, confronting these individuals—**not surprisingly, perpetrators seldom acknowledged their fault, so victim's sense of injustice intensified and formed its own feedback loop**—THINK whether these are your go-to methods when someone says they have been wronged; **whatever horizontal action attempted to restore/bring justice, there is vertical relationship issues that must take place to relieve ROOT of anxiety/fear/injustice above horizontal relationship issues**—namely, **Believe if God HAS acted toward those who fear Him in past in this way, then can trust His word/character as face fears/injustices**; **sometimes not willing to do work to cultivate encouragement from God** worldview here? fearing/ reverencing God implies seeking help from God--THIS leads to deliverance; practically, **Spurgeon** to be heard of God is to be delivered, **what does this mean for us?** Work of not only prayer, but studying His provision Spurgeon quoted William Gurnall v. 4 "Meditation is like the lawyer's studying the case in order to his pleading at the bar: when, therefore, thou hast viewed the promise, and affected thy heart with the riches of it, then fly thee to the throne of grace, and spread it before the Lord." V. 6 cried—**want cannot blush Samuel Rutherford** in Spurgeon—**fervency heard Lk. 18, Ps. 55:17, Ps. 18:6, Is. 38:14** ^{Job 30:28}; Spurgeon quoted David Smith, "The more we can think upon our Lord and the less upon ourselves, the better. Looking to him, as he is seated upon the right hand of the throne of God, will keep our heads, and especially our hearts, steady when going through the deep waters of affliction." p. 129 **this is psalmist's personal testimony—be encouraged! (Me: testimonies are only as good as God they are looking at, but when looking to God as He has told us and see His hand, we should be encouraged**—ie. Sunday night testimonies—YOU look for His hand, then tell others--do it!); **in line w this, Janie Cheaney points us at end to another focus besides seeking everything to be right/people treating us rightly, etc., Phil. 3:13-14** "There is a goal, and a prize, and an upward call. Do we reach for the prize, or circle around our grievances until they suck us right down the drain?" **what will you fight for—everything else a mess BUT . . .** (let me give you couple of other's testimony of **they looked to Him and were radiant/faces never ashamed**; read Isabel Kuhn *In the Arena*—missionary w husband to Lisu tribes in China; devotion, determination in face of many obstacles we often not even close to withstanding, wrote much in short 56 years b/r dying in 1957 of cancer—much can pick on as we look for perfect (see window into standard evangelical thought in the 30's-50's good and maybe not so good), but look for "signs of grace"—after living for self in teenage years of high school and college where "convinced by one of her teachers that only superstitious people believed in the truth of the Bible anymore; she loved talking about abstract ideas with the intellectual crowd, and disdained the faith of her parents. Influenced by the poems of Thomas Hardy, she saw life as meaningless and dark. Her response to finding out that her boyfriend had been dating another girl was to contemplate suicide. Only the thought that her father would believe that she had gone to hell stopped her at the last minute from killing herself. That night, as she lay back down in bed, the words of Dante, 'In His will is our peace,' came to her mind. She prayed, 'God, if there be a God, if You will prove to me that You are, and if You will give me peace, I will give You my whole life.' (Repp, xvii) From then on, Isobel began her search for God, though it took several years for her fully to commit her life to Christ. She wavered between God and the world, but slowly gave up her addictions to card-playing, theater and movies, romantic fiction, and dancing, which she loved. A passion to know God had taken possession of her heart, driving out all other delights and desires, and impelling her towards a search for truth and meaning in life." <https://bdconline.net/en/stories/kuhn-isobel-miller> can wince b/c of perhaps different applications of external signs of devotion to God—**but important to note that in order to have God as greatest desire, have to displace other**

desires/pleasures—note work to search for God—later, motto with her husband was, “God first.” THIS is the disposition of the psalmist; **Elizabeth Prentiss biography—start p. 1** “She was born . . .” “I have sometimes heard of spells and charms to excite love and have wished for them, as a boy, that I might cause others to love me. But how much more do I now wish for some charm which would lead men to love the Saviour. Could I paint a true likeness of him methinks I should rejoice to hold it up to the view and admiration of all creation, and be hid behind it forever. It would be heaven enough to hear him praised and adored. But I cannot paint him, I cannot describe him, I cannot make others love him. Nay I cannot love him a thousandth part so much as I ought myself. O, for an angel’s tongue, O for the tongues of ten thousand angels to sound his praises.” Edward Payson in *Elizabeth Prentiss ‘More Love to Thee’* p. 7 “I have given you at least two thousand warnings. I am now going to render an account [of] how they were given, and you, my hearers, will soon have to render an account of how they were received. One more warning I will give you.” p. 8 “O what a blessed thing it is to lose one’s will. Since I have lost my will I have found happiness. There can be no such things as disappointment to me, for I have no desires but that God’s will might be accomplished. Christians might avoid much trouble if they would only believe what they profess, viz., that God is able to make them happy without anything but Himself. They imagine that if is such a dear friend were to die, or such and such a blessing removed, they should be miserable, whereas God can make them a thousand times happier without them. To mention my own case, God has been depriving me of one blessing after another, but as every one was removed He has come in a filled up its place, and now, when I am a cripple and unable to move, I am happier than ever I was in my life before or expected to be, and if I had believed this twenty years ago I might have been spared much anxiety.” P. 9 “The celestial city is full in my view. Its glories beam upon me, its breezes fan me, its odours are wafted to me, its sounds strike upon my ear, and its spirit is breathed into my heart. Nothing separates me from it but the river of death, which now appears as an insignificant rill, that may be crossed at a single step whenever God shall give permission. The Sun of Righteousness has been gradually drawing nearer and nearer, appearing larger and brighter as he approached, and now he fills the whole hemisphere, pouring forth a flood of glory in which I seem to float like an insect in the beams of the sun, exalting yet almost trembling while I gaze on this excessive brightness, and wonder why God should deign thus to shine upon a sinful worm. A single heart and a single tongue seem altogether inadequate to my wants: I want a whole heart for every separate emotion and whole tongue to express that emotion.” Pp. 9-10—**what are you thinking as you listen to an example of one with the disposition of the psalmist?** THIS is the disposition of psalmist; seek intentionally to live after pattern of psalmist--Sought the Lord, looked to Him, cried, feared the Lord (study these concepts in Scripture humbly and head in this direction and you will see more of what the psalmist saw, weakening other desires); keep the psalmist in front of you as example Rom. 15 – listen, he is calling for us to experience his joy from God **vv. 8-10**

IV. Continued Appeal to Join in Praise vv. 8-10

A. Desirable Results for Those Who Follow My Testimony to God

⁸ O taste and see that the Lord is good; All want to be around someone who is good—for as much as we talk about not building life on feelings and experiences, here, called to feel/experience—**what accompanies these feelings/experiences in vv. 8-9 that we must include if we would hope to experience goodness of the Lord and join him in praise?** **How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!** **⁹ O fear the Lord, you His saints; For to those who fear Him there is no want.** Taste, see, fear work together; in order to **see** (believe for self, experience) as good, have to be around Him—see Him Spurgeon “Faith is the soul’s taste” p. 124 therefore, **How/where are you showing faith in God today/now?** **(where does He say He is seen that we might overlook? What is required to see Him there?)**

Psalm 18:6 In my distress I called upon the LORD, And cried to my God for help; He heard my voice out of His temple, And my cry for help before Him came into His ears.

Psalm 55:17 Evening and morning and at noon, I will complain and murmur, And He will hear my voice.

Isaiah 38:14 “Like a swallow, like a crane, so I twitter; I moan like a dove; My eyes look wistfully to the heights; O Lord, I am oppressed, be my security.

Philippians 3:13-14 Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Hebrews 6:4-6 For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, ⁵ and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, ⁶ and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame.

1 Peter 2:1-5 Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, ² like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, ³ if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord. ⁴ And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, ⁵ you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.