

PRAISE! GOD'S WILL FOR YOU

Psalm 113

"Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5.16-18

I often "find" that many are orthodox in their reverence toward Christ, their reliance on the integrity of the Scriptures, and their realization of an evil world. Yet, one thing concerns me about many Christians: *We do not sound the praise of God.*

The Christian life was meant to be a full chord. Often the missing note in our harmonies is the note of praise. One of the most important issues presented in the Psalms is that praise is due God by the believer. Praise is not an option nor an elective. It is an obligation. Psalm 113 states this truth most clearly: *Praise is due his incomparable name.* The importance of praise and its rationale in the mind of God are displayed vividly in this Psalm.

THE IMPERATIVE OF PRAISE

"Praise the LORD.

*Praise, O servants of the LORD,
praise the name of the LORD.
Let the name of the LORD be praised,
both now and forevermore.
From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets,
the name of the LORD is to be praised."* Psalm 113.1-3

What is praise?

Who is to praise?

To whom is praise to be given?

When and where is praise to be given?

And how long shall this praise be due?

Where is one to praise God?

THE EXPLANATION OF THE IMPERATIVE OF PRAISE: INCOMPARABILITY

<i>"The LORD is exalted over all the nations, his glory above the heavens. Who is like the LORD our God, the One who sits enthroned on high, who stoops down to look on the heavens and the earth?"</i>	In his Position. In his Person. In his Passion.
Psalm 113.4-6	

Isaiah 44.6-8; 6.3

ILLUSTRATIONS OF HIS INCOMPARABLE GRACE

<i>"He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; he seats them with princes, with the princes of their people. He settles the barren woman in her home as a happy mother of children.</i>	A Wretch on a Heap. A Woman in Despair.
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Praise the LORD." Psalm 113.7-9

Ephesians 1.3; Romans 4.24-5.2

1 Samuel 2.1-10; Luke 1.46-55