

A WORD ON WORSHIP

Review of Message from November 19, 2017

BY PASTOR ANDREW KICKERT, SUNRISE COMMUNITY CHURCH

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Psalm 71:14-16

But as for me, I will hope continually, and will praise You yet more and more. My mouth shall tell of Your righteousness and of Your salvation all day long; for I do not know the sum of them. I will come with the mighty deeds of the Lord God; I will make mention of Your righteousness, Yours alone.



If you are like me (and I suspect that most of you are), you've got a lot of room to grow in the daily practice of praising the Lord. A great way to grow in the praise of God is to read and meditate on the Psalms every day. In Psalm 71, the psalmist acknowledged, "my praise is continually of You." You would think that continual praise of the Lord would be adequate. But he goes on to say in verse 14 "But as for me, I will hope continually, and will praise You yet more and more." If the psalmist needed to resolve to praise the Lord yet more and more, how much more do we?

Maybe you're thinking, "But I don't have a bubbly personality. I'm not the type who goes around saying, 'Praise the Lord' all the time." But praising the Lord doesn't mean repeating, "Praise the Lord," over and over. Rather, praising the Lord is to exult and rejoice in who God is and what He has done, especially, in what He has done to redeem you and draw you near to Him through the cross of Jesus Christ.

Genuine praise contains both a rational and an emotional element. With our minds, we must understand who God is, as revealed in His Word. Otherwise, we are not worshiping the true God, or at least, God as He is truly revealed. But, also, when you understand who God is and what He has done in sending His only begotten Son to die for your sins, it affects your heart. It fills you with joy and thankfulness. It humbles you to realize that your sin put Him there. It motivates you to follow Christ and please Him with all your heart. If you can think about what Jesus did on the cross and shrug it off, you're not a Christian!

My prayer is that we understand this Thanksgiving more than we ever have that praising God is not optional. It's not something nice to do whenever you feel like it, but it doesn't really matter. Rather, praising God is our highest calling. If you are not continually filled with praise to God, then you are not yet fulfilling the purpose for which He created you and saved you. Today, let us join the psalmist in resolving, "But as for me, I will ... praise You yet more and more." (Psalm 71:14)

Sunrise Community Church
Come acknowledge the Lord in our midst
EVERY SUNDAY BEGINNING AT 8:45 A.M.

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