

## “Let Us Exalt the Lord Together” Psalm 34:1-10 Oct.28, 2012

Joe didn't go to church much, but he needed a new horse. He heard the preacher was selling his so he bought it. The preacher explained to Joe that his horse would not respond to Getty- up and whoa. Praise the lord made the horse go and Amen made him stop. It took awhile for Joe to get used to these commands but he finally adjusted. Then 1 day he was riding in the mountains and the horse was headed straight for a cliff. Frantically Joe tried to stop the horse; suddenly he remembered to say amen. The horse stopped just inches from the edge. Whipping the sweat from his brow Joe said praise the lord.

A woman approached the minister after the sermon, and thanked him for his discourse. “I found it so helpful,” she said. The minister replied: “I hope it will not prove as helpful as the last sermon you heard me preach.” “Why, what do you mean?” asked the astonished woman. “Well,” said the minister, “that sermon lasted you three months.”

By the time Bobby arrived, the football game had already started. “Why are you so late?” asked his friend. “I couldn't decide between going to church and going to the football game. So I tossed a coin,” said Bobby. “But that shouldn't have taken too long,” said the friend. “Well, I had to toss it 35 times.”

Lady on vacation visited a church for 1<sup>st</sup> time. She became enthralled with the message and shouted praise the lord! To which the gentleman seated next to her replied mame we don't praise the lord in this church. That is the problem in too many churches today.

Worship is praising God! Worship is adoration and devotion to a certain person, place or thing. Karen Burton Mains said worship has been defined as being preoccupied with God. As Christians, we need to be preoccupied with God. How do we do that? By making a conscience decision to praise God at all times. That is what David tells us. “His praise shall continuously be in my mouth.” Mains says we need to cultivate intentionality

We need to fill our minds with Godly thoughts and focus on our worship. It has been said that too many Christians worship their work, work at their play and play at their worship.

We need to work at our worship and then we find that we have cultivated a preoccupation with God. What are we preoccupied with today? There is only 1 being worthy of our praise; God himself. David knew this, do we?

Voltaire was an 18th century philosopher. He said that Christianity would be nothing more than history within a hundred years of his life. He admitted though that for this to happen, the world must get rid of Sunday. He said “There is no hope of destroying Christianity so long as the Christian Sabbath is acknowledged and kept as a sacred day.” Do you think Voltaire would be pleased with America's current thoughts about Sunday?

There is a legend about King Canute, who ruled Britain from 1016-1035. He was such an imposing and successful king that nobody dared to say anything negative about him. His advisors heaped continual praise upon him. This flattery got old after a while and the King stopped it. Standing by the ocean he asked his closest advisors if they thought he was powerful

enough to stop the tide. They said yes. So he said tide cease, but guess what, it did not and they all got soaked. He said see how much power I really have. There is but 1 God of the universe, he alone is worthy of praise. On the way back to the castle, King Canute hung his crown up in the church. Who is Lord of our lives? Who do we worship? Whose praise is continually in our mouths? (Pray)

This psalm is an acrostic which means that there is one verse for each letter of the Hebrew alphabet. It is a Psalm of wisdom, praise and worship. It was written by David when he faked insanity to escape from Abimelech. We can read this story in 1 Samuel 21:10-15. If we read this scripture, we will note that it calls the king Achish, not Abimelech. This is one of the places people like to point to and say that there are contradictions in the bible; but there are no contradictions in the bible, only in our interpretation of it. Achish was the King in 1 Samuel 21. David had to flee for his life from Saul, the King of Israel, who wanted to kill him. David fled to the land of the Philistines. Abimelech is what the Philistines called their king; it is a title, like the Egyptians calling their king Pharaoh or the Romans calling their king Caesar. The bible is the inerrant word of God. We can trust it, just like we can trust God Himself. Do we trust him? Do we know his word? Do we trust it?

Psalm 34 is divided into 2 groups. Verses 1-10 makes up the 1st group. It is David's personal testimony for the Lord. Verses 11-22 are his teachings about the Lord. Do we share our personal testimonies? Do we teach others about Jesus?

David begins this hymn of praise by praising God. "I will bless the Lord at all times" he says. Do we praise God all the time? Is his praise continually on our lips? Paul puts it this way in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." Unbelievers are very thankless people. Being thankful is a trait of Christians. Are we thankful this morning?

David is bragging on God. God is the only thing we can rightfully brag about. He is all powerful and all knowing. Do we brag about our God? Do we brag about our savior? Do we give them the credit they deserve? Hearing of the greatness of God will make the humble glad. Are we glad for people when they tell us what God has done for them? Do we praise and thank God for what he has done for others?

David invites us to come and magnify the Lord with him; to exalt his name together. This is an invitation to all the people to praise God together. This is an invite to Church. It is important for believers to get together and worship. Fellowship is important. We need time together with God as well as time alone with Him. Do we feel that it is important to be in church on Sundays? Are we glad to be here today?

David tells us why he is praising God; He called out to him and God not only heard him he answered him and delivered him from his fears. We all have fears, yet we should not. Psalm 27: "the Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life. Of whom shall I be afraid?" Our heavenly Father calms our fears if we let him; if we trust him. Do we trust Him? David took it to the Lord in prayer and left it there in his hands. Do we do that/

do we give it to God and forget about it? Do we let go and let God? We need to. God took care of David and he will take care of us as well.

David was praising God for his deliverance. God saved him from his troubles, heart aches and fears. David is telling us that if we trust God he will do the same thing for us. All of us are just poor people in God's sight. Poor meaning humble. Who are we that he is mindful of us? God loves us. He made us; we are the creation of his hand.

He wants to help us. All we have to do is ask. Do we ask Him? We will ask if we love Him. Do love him, trust him and ask him. Do we praise Him when He meets our needs? Is that the only time we praise Him? Is His praise continually in our mouths?

The angel of the Lord surrounds all those who love and fear God. He delivers them. The angel of the Lord is Jesus. If Christ is surrounding us and living in our heart, then we have nothing to fear do we? If we are surrounded by God and filled with His love, then we too will glow with the spirit of God like Moses did when he met with God. Christians should beam forth with the light of the world. Can others see Jesus in us?

Then David gives us all the invitation; taste and see that the Lord is good. David is inviting us to try God, to trust Him, to love him. Too often we Christians fail when it is time to invite people to taste Jesus for them selves. Too often we tell them what he has done for us and what he means to us, but fail to ask them if they would like to try him for themselves. People need to be invited to church and they need to be invited to invite Jesus into their heart. Israel's job was to tell the world about the one true living God, their God. In Genesis 12:3 God tells Abraham "I will bless those that bless you, & I will curse him who curses you; and in you will all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Israel's job was to present their God in a loving manor, a manor which invites people to try their God. The blessing of God upon his obedient, loving people would draw others to this loving God. The world follows false, dead gods who don't love them and doesn't care for them. They cannot, they are not real and alive. God is the one true living God. Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is also alive today. We serve a risen savior; do we represent him well? Do we invite people to a personal relationship with Him? Christianity is not a religion; it is a personal relationship with Jesus, our living Savior.

David tells us to fear the Lord. This does not mean to be afraid of him, but to respect him, be in awe of him. It is a call to worship Him in reverence and serve him with humble piety and obedience. Proverbs 1:7 "the fear of the Lord is the beginning knowledge; but fools despise wisdom and instruction." If we properly fear the Lord, David says we will have no want. He means we will have no needs. God will meet every need we have if we put him and his will first in our lives. Jesus said in Matthew 6:33 "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." Do we seek first God's kingdom and His will?

Young lions aren't the best hunters; sometimes they miss a meal or two. But those who seek the Lord shall not lack any good thing. Psalm 23:1 tells us basically the same thing; "The Lord is my

shepherd, I shall not want.” Our heavenly Father always meets the needs of his children. He does it in his way and on his schedule. Our job as his blessed children is to tell others of the things he has done for us. That is all witnessing really is, just simply telling others what God has done for us. What is God doing in our lives?

Psalm 84:11 “God is a sun and a shield; the Lord will give grace and glory; no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.” God enlightens us, guides us, directs us and protects us. Grace is God’s good will to us and His good works flowing through us. Glory is honor he gives us by adopting us as his children and giving us a home in heaven. Grace is glory begun. God gives us grace in this world as preparation for glory in the next, and glory heaven is the perfection of God’s grace to us. Both these gifts are free to us; all we have to do is receive it. Have we received the gift of eternal life? Does Jesus live in our hearts? If he does, do we display Christian character?

Christian character is an example of God’s grace in our lives. Christians need to walk uprightly; to do that which is right in God’s eyes, to live a proper and moral life, filled with Godly character. Do we have these things in our lives?

Those who fear God have no want in their life. This means we will not lack any need: God will meet them all. Human beings will always want something, but God will always meet our needs. Are we happy when God meets our needs or do we want Him to give us our wants as well? Paul said in Phil.4:11 “I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content.” Christians who truly worship God are content with what He gives them. Are we content this morning? This statement that those who seek the Lord shall not lack any good thing is not a guarantee of our wish list. It is a promise that our needs will be met. We need food, clothing and shelter. God knows our needs better than we do. He knows which are needs and which are wants; sometimes we don’t. God promised to meet our needs, not our wants. The wants of human beings can never truly be satisfied. As soon as we satisfy 1 want, another one takes its place. We can only find true satisfaction in Jesus Christ. If we have Jesus, we have everything we need. Do we have Jesus?

Sometimes we have not because we ask not. Sometimes we have not because we seek not. Many of the blessings God gives us require some effort on our part. God will set us free from our fears but we must talk to him about them. He will guard and defend us, but we must ask him to. He will bless us and supply our needs but we must trust that he will. He will forgive our sins and redeem us only if we trust in the blood of Jesus. When we trust him, when we cry out to him, when we take refuge in him, when we turn from our sins and do good, when we serve, obey, and revere him, He will bless us. Do we do these things? These things lead us into praise and worship.

Have you ever looked at the moon through a telescope? We focus on it then don’t we? As it becomes bigger in our eyes, we study it until we are overwhelmed by it. We magnify it in our eyes. The same thing happens when we magnify the Lord. We focus on Him, we study Him and soon we are overwhelmed with His light, love, grace and mercy.

This magnification brings us to a point of awe and it is this awe that leads us into praise and worship. We find ourselves exalting His name. Oh magnify the Lord with me and let us exalt His

name together. Do we truly praise God? Do we worship Him with our whole heart? His He truly our Lord and Master? Or are we like the church a man saw in his dream one night? An angel escorted him to this huge church. Their praise band was playing vigorously; the choir was singing with gusto, the preach spoke with passion, but there was no volume; the man could not hear a word or a note. He asked the angel how this could be. The angel said this is the way it sounds to us up in heaven, silent. Their mouths move and their bodies are here but their minds and hearts are far away, pondering other things. Are we trusting in the blood of Jesus? Are we living for him? Are we praising and worshipping his holy name? Or are we just going through the motions?

Is His praise continually in our mouths? Do we magnify the Lord and exalt his name? Amen!  
Let's pray.