

Sunday, December 07, 2014

Praise
Pastor Charles Mendenhall

Hebrews 10:19 (KJV)

¹⁹ Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,

In this chapter he goes on to say the believers should not even have the consciousness or awareness of sin; that we might have righteousness consciousness because the blood of Jesus is far more superior than the blood of bulls and goats. The Father sees us through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and we are in right standing because of that.

The book of Romans is about God grace, mercy and righteousness and how we are not married to the law. The law is dead.

Romans 8:30-33 (AMP)

³⁰ And those whom He thus foreordained, He also called; and those whom He called, He also justified (acquitted, made righteous, putting them into right standing with Himself). And those whom He justified, He also glorified [raising them to a heavenly dignity and condition or state of being].

³¹ What then shall we say to [all] this? If God is for us, who [can be] against us? [Who can be our foe, if God is on our side?]

³² He who did not withhold or spare [even] His own Son but gave Him up for us all, will He not also with Him freely and graciously give us all [other] things?

³³ Who shall bring any charge against God's elect [when it is] God Who justifies [that is, Who puts us in right relation to Himself? Who shall come forward and accuse or impeach those whom God has chosen? Will God, Who acquits us?]

God has declared us righteous and justified as though we had never sinned. He has put us in right standing with Him and it is through the blood that we have the boldness to enter into the holy of holies.

Today the blood has cleansed us from every effect of any sin that has ever occurred in our lives or will ever occur. We must take a step of faith and act on what God has said about us. Religion will beat us down and tell us we are still sinners but the Bible tells us we are new creatures in Christ. Amen.

1 John 5:14-15 (KJV)

¹⁴ And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:

¹⁵ And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

Once we know that God has heard our prayer, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him and at that time we are to move on over into thanksgiving.

There is so much power in praise that the church has tremendous power available and it is literally untapped because church people become so imprisoned with our touchy feelings and because we don't feel like it we don't praise so the power isn't turned on and shown out.

We must get beyond our feelings. It makes no difference how we feel. The Word tells us that we are to praise him at all times. The times when we don't feel like it are the times when we need it the most.

In aviation there is a term used called attitude and it is the relationship of the aircraft to the horizon. And also in aviation, attitude plus power equals performance.

As is with our attitude in relationship to praise and worship will keep our focus right on how we are viewing God. We aren't focusing on the circumstances of adversity or the impossibilities, but we are focusing on God's possibilities. Focusing on victory and The Most High God. That He is bigger and greater than the adversary.

Psalm 34:1-4 (KJV)

34 I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

² My soul shall make her boast in the Lord: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad.

³ O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together.

⁴ I sought the Lord, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.

Most of the Psalms David wrote were written because of challenges he was facing in his life. He knew he could have a song in his heart, because he knew God could deliver him from his fears.

The following verse is telling of the destruction that is going to come to God's people. This chapter also tells of the blessings that are to come.

Deuteronomy 28:47 (KJV)

⁴⁷ Because thou servedst not the Lord thy God with joyfulness, and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things;

We know it is God's plan for us to have abundance of all things, for our prayers to be answered, to have our needs met. The Israelites would say it was better for them to have stayed in captivity when bad things would come. They were always a murmuring and complaining people. In the New Testament, I Corinthians chapter 10 states that murmuring and complaining kept the children of Israel from entering the Promised Land.

Praise and worship is learned in the crucible, a place or occasion of severe test or trial, of life. When you have been disappointed or hurt, maybe when resentment comes in or you are mad at God. That is where real praise and worship is learned. Then we become a real doer of the Word of God and everything about our emotions will be rebelling.

Hebrews 13:15 (KJV)

¹⁵ By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

We sacrifice our feelings and emotions we lay them on the altar of God so that God's presence can be manifested in our life. We offer them up continually. The book of Revelation says that there is praise and worship continually be heard.

1 Peter 1:6 (KJV)

⁶ Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:

1 Peter 1:6-8 (KJV)

⁶ Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:

⁷ That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

⁸ Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (KJV)

¹⁶ Rejoice evermore.

¹⁷ Pray without ceasing.

¹⁸ ***In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.***

Ephesians 5:20 (KJV)

²⁰ ***Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;***

Ephesians 5:20 (NET Bible)

²⁰ ***always giving thanks to God the Father for each other in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,***

Do you see the difference in the wording? We are to be giving thanks to God for each other but not for all things. The devil comes to steal, kill, and destroy. Jesus came that we may have life and the attitude of someone thanking God for getting cancer. Why are you thanking the God for something the devil gave you?

The word says we are to praise God while we are in it.

In Acts 16 Paul and Silas are in jail for preaching The Gospel. This is what they did:

Acts 16:22-25 (KJV)

²² ***And the multitude rose up together against them: and the magistrates rent off their clothes, and commanded to beat them.***

²³ ***And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely:***

²⁴ ***Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks.***

²⁵ ***And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.***

Hebrews 13:15 (KJV)

¹⁵ ***By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.***

Philippians 4:6 (KJV)

⁶ ***Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.***

Paula and Silas were not thanking God for being in prison, or being put there, but they were thanking Him in the midst of it. They were tapping into the power source instead of murmuring and complaining.

And look what happened:

Acts 16:26 (KJV)

²⁶ ***And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.***

In 2 Chronicles 20, Jehoshaphat had run into some difficulties running the kingdom he is over and there are three armies that have combined and are coming against him. During that time Jehoshaphat has called upon his people to fast and pray and get the mind of Lord as to what is going to happen. He states that all the power is in God's hands, and there isn't any power that can withstand him. They were told that the battle is the Lords. A prophet gave them instructions on praising the Lord. They believed the word of the Lord and were obedient.

Every time we whine and complain it sends a signal out into the spirit realm and the demons awaken to pounce on us. When we sent out a sound of praise and worship it send a signal out to the angels to come to our aid and to deliver us. That is the kind of power we have at our disposal.

2 Chronicles 20:25-26 (KJV)

²⁵ ***And when Jehoshaphat and his people came to take away the spoil of them, they found among them in abundance both riches with the dead bodies, and precious jewels, which they stripped off for themselves, more than they could carry away: and they were three days in gathering of the spoil, it was so much.***

²⁶ ***And on the fourth day they assembled themselves in the valley of Berachah; for there they blessed the Lord: therefore the name of the same place was called, The valley of Berachah, unto this day.***

When we choose to praise and worship we will reap the spoils of it. We will not be defeated, but will be the victor.

2 Chronicles 20:27-30 (KJV)

²⁷ ***Then they returned, every man of Judah and Jerusalem, and Jehoshaphat in the forefront of them, to go again to Jerusalem with joy; for the Lord had made them to rejoice over their enemies.***

²⁸ ***And they came to Jerusalem with psalteries and harps and trumpets unto the house of the Lord.***

²⁹ ***And the fear of God was on all the kingdoms of those countries, when they had heard that the Lord fought against the enemies of Israel.***

³⁰ ***So the realm of Jehoshaphat was quiet: for his God gave him rest round about.***

When we begin to worship and praise God, others will see that God has given us the victory and there is nothing that can withstand us and that because we are a praise and worshippers we have released the unseen forces called angels to come by our side. There is a peace in the midst of adversity because we are worshippers.

Psalms 50:23 (KJV)

²³ ***Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me: and to him that ordereth his conversation aright will I shew the salvation of God.***

There is power in praise there is power in worship.

Jonah 2:6-10 (KJV)

⁶ ***I went down to the bottoms of the mountains; the earth with her bars was about me for ever: yet hast thou brought up my life from corruption, O Lord my God.***

⁷ ***When my soul fainted within me I remembered the Lord: and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple.***

⁸ ***They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy.***

⁹ ***But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the Lord.***

¹⁰ ***And the Lord spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land.***

How did Jonah's deliverance come about? He offered up the sacrifice with the voice of thanksgiving.

Father we worship you. And father we declare the Word of the Lord, and Father we see the heavens literally filled and full with the blessings that God has for the people of God. We see them overflowing like bubbles flowing out of the bucket that cannot be contained. And the Spirit of the Lord would say, when you begin to worship me, when you begin to offer up the sacrifice of thanksgiving and praise, just as supernatural as it was for Jonah in the belly of the whale, three days and nights. All seemed lost, no hope and total darkness, but when he offered up the sacrifice of praise. He spoke to the circumstances and his imprisonment. And as he spoke to it, the prison doors opened, and once again he was put into the light, and once again he was planted on solid ground, and so it is this day, saith the Lord. When you begin to praise and worship, circumstances will be muzzled, they will be stopped, the storm will cease, and you once again will be planted on the solid rock of Jesus Christ. Where nothing can shake you, nothing can devour. Surely you are standing in a place of victory, saith The Lord this day.