

# Praise is Comely for the Upright

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## Introduction

- A. **Psalm 33:1** "Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous: for praise is comely for the upright."
  - 1. Rejoice in the Lord means to delight in loving Him, in pleasing Him, and in carrying out His will on this earth.
  - 2. Rejoicing in the Lord is a way of giving God praise. "Joy is the soul of praise." Praise is diminished without the vehicle of joy carrying it to God.
- B. Psalm 33 can teach us much about worship attitudes that render our worship acceptable.

## I. It is better for the righteous to praise than all others, v. 1.

### A. It is better than the praise of hypocrites

- 1. Matthew 22:16

### B. It is better than the praise of the profane.

- 1. Daniel 2:47
- 2. Daniel 3:28
- 3. Daniel 4:37

### C. It is better than the praise of the wicked.

- 1. Isaiah 1:15 blood on their hands
- 2. Acts 16:16-19 demon (python) in the maiden
- 3. Mark 5:6-7 demon Legion

### D. Let the righteous not be surpassed by the unrighteous!

## II. A good tutor leads us to Christ, v. 2

### A. Israel was schooled in praise by using the childish things to help her learn.

- 1. "Praise the Lord with harp, with psalter, with ten strings..."
- 2. **Galatians 3:23** "But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ..."
  - **4:3-4** "Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world: But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son..."

### B. v. 3 Play skilfully with a loud voice.

- 1. God was teaching childish Israel to praise Him using the leadership of the Psalmist David and even before with Miriam and Moses, all of whom used musical instruments to stir them up. The religious dance had the same purpose: to stir up the spirit to express itself to God in praise.
- 2. **Ephesians 5:19** We now have the adult forms of singing and making melody in our hearts to God with thankfulness in our hearts. We need to use all of our abilities and skill to do the best that we can as did the ancient Israelite priests, levites, and kings. To be lazy in praise insults our Creator.
- 3. **"With a loud noise"** The implication is that we praise and love Him with all our strength and might.
  - a. **Colossians 3:23** Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might!

b. As at the triumphal entry of Jesus, Matthew 21:9. Pharisees said, "Rebuke thy disciples." Luke 19:39. Jesus answered, "I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out."

c. Worship and praise is not a time for "well bred whispers" (Spurgeon) but rather a time to be heard and counted, "I am on the Lord's side!" "Amen!, count me in!" Shout at the approach of the King!... Preach it from the house tops! **Matt. 10:27.** Proclaimed upon the housetops, **Luke 12:3**

-- **Psalm 33:4 Why?** because the word of the Lord is Right! and all his works are done in truth.

### **III. Sing a New Song**

A. Not the old songs of the flesh and fleshly enjoyment. Look at the images of tattoo-ed, facially pierced, gothic painted, pale and sickly looking entertainers of today. And you want to rejoice in their screaming tantrums? Do you rejoice in the songs of adultery justified by strong feelings and yearnings or the injustices of life? Or do just want to worship God with a good dance song that would be even a little better if your partner was a little drunk and little less inhibited by moral restraints?

B. Our songs change when we change.

1. The things that we sing about change.
2. The things that we praise change.
3. Our sense of beauty changes.
4. We sing of gratitude for all of God's works that rescue us from sin.
5. We sing of our blessed hope of heaven.
6. We sing of God's messages that touch our hearts and move us into action to do better than we have in the past.