Tonight as we bring our series from *The Book of Psalms* to a close I would like for you to please turn with me in your Bibles to the very last Psalm.

**Read:** Psalm 150

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**PRAYER**

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**ILLUSTRATION:** Several years ago this touching story was published in the *Our Daily Bread* devotional book.

It’s the story of an elderly Christian man, a **fine singer**, who learned that he had cancer of the tongue and surgery was required. On the day of the surgery, the elderly man asked the surgeon, **“Are you sure I will never sing again?”**

The surgeon found it difficult to answer his question. **He simply shook his head no.** The elderly man asked the surgeon if he could sit up for just a moment before they took him to the operating room. He told the surgeon, **“I’ve had many good times singing the praises of God. And now you are telling me I will never be able to sing again. I have one song that will be my last. It will be a song of gratitude and praise to my God.”**

Then there in the doctor’s presence, the elderly man sang softly the words of **Isaac Watt’s hymn**, **“I’ll praise my Maker while I’ve breath, and when my voice is lost in death, Praise shall employ my nobler power, My days of praise shall ne’er be past, While life, and thought, and being last, or immortality endures.”**

------*Our Daily Bread.*
As we come to this 150th and final Psalm, the psalmist invites you and me to worship God through our praises. In fact the word “praise” appears thirteen times in these six short verses.

Psalm 150 is classified as one of five hallel Psalms. Hallel is short for hallelujah. In the original Hebrew manuscripts Psalm 146-150 each began and ended with the word hallelujah.

If you have one of the more modern translations, you might notice Psalms 146-150 all begin and end with the admonition, “Praise the LORD!”

Well let’s spend just a few minutes looking at this beautiful Psalm together.

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First of all,

I. Where Should We Praise The LORD? (v. 1)

v. 1 Praise the LORD, Praise GOD in His sanctuary; praise HIM in His mighty heavens.

1. God’s sanctuary refers to any place of worship on earth where God’s people gather to worship God.

   - In the Psalmist’s day the sanctuary was the temple in Jerusalem.

   - In our day, the sanctuary is the Church building or wherever God’s people meet together for worship.

2. Can you imagine how lacking our worship would be each time we gather here if there were no songs of praise.

   Imagine starting out our worship service each week without Mona playing any kind of prelude to prepare our minds and hearts for worship.
Imagine no singing at all. Imagine having prayer time with no prayer hymn to prepare us. Imagine the Lord’s Supper without the singing of a communion hymn. Imagine “dead silence” while the men receive the offering. Imagine every one remaining seated after the offering instead of standing up to sing The Doxology. Imagine no invitation hymn after the sermon and no closing chorus at the conclusion of the service.

3. Do you understand now why the Psalmist says, “Praise the LORD. Praise GOD in His sanctuary?”

You see, our primary purpose for coming together each week is to praise the LORD!

PSALM 100:4 Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with PRAISE; give thanks to Him and PRAISE His Name.

Think of praise as “the thread” that stitches together our prayers……our giving……our observance of the Lord’s Supper……and our study of God’s word through the preaching.

4. But notice the Psalmist also says in verse 1, “Praise Him in His mighty heavens.”

This is a call for the heavenly hosts to praise God.

While we praise the LORD in the sanctuary here on earth, the heavenly hosts praise the LORD in heaven above.

Praise the LORD on earth!  
Praise the LORD in heaven!  
Praise the LORD throughout the universe!
Secondly let’s consider..........

II. WHY We Should We The LORD? (v. 2)

v. 2 Praise Him for His acts of power; praise Him for His surpassing greatness.

1. The Psalmist is giving us two good reasons why we should praise the LORD.

(A) We should praise the LORD because of WHAT HE HAS DONE.

v. 2a Praise Him for His acts of power.”

Just think back to some of the Psalms we have studied in this series.

- In PSALM 1 we learned that God gives our lives stability when we walk in His ways rather than the ways of the world.

- In PSALM 22 We learned that God had a plan long ago to send His only begotten Son into the world to save our souls.

- In PSALM 23 we learned the LORD is our SHEPHERD who provides our every physical and spiritual need.

- In PSALM 37 we learned that GOD is our “Defender” when “the bad guys” seemingly win over us in life.

- In PSALM 51 we learned that GOD offers us His grace and forgiveness when we confess our sins to Him.

- In PSALM 71 we learned that GOD watches over us during our long dark nights of loneliness and depression.

- In PSALM 103 we learned that GOD has shown us His great compassion and does not treat us as our sins deserve.

- In PSALM 119 we learned that GOD has given us this wonderful enduring Book called the Bible as “a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path.”

- In PSALM 121 we learned that GOD IS OUR HELPER and we can call on Him any time day or night.

- And last week in PSALM 139 we learned that GOD KNOWS EVERYTHING ABOUT US which means He is constantly watching over our lives.
But there is another reason why we should praise the LORD and that is BECAUSE OF WHO HE IS.

v. 2b Praise Him for HIS SURPASSING GREATNESS.

Apart from all the mighty things God has done, He is worthy of our praise simply because of WHO HE IS.

God is HOLY and His holiness cannot be surpassed.

God is LOVE and His love cannot be surpassed.

God is GRACIOUS and His grace cannot be surpassed.

God is MERCIFUL and His mercy cannot be surpassed.

God is GOOD and His goodness cannot be surpassed.

God is ALL-KNOWING and His knowledge cannot be surpassed.

God is ALL-POWERFUL and His power cannot be surpassed.

God is COMPASSIONATE and His compassion cannot be surpassed.

2. Do you understand now why the Psalmist admonishes us to PRAISE THE LORD? We should praise HIM because WHAT HE HAS DONE and because of WHO HE IS!

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WHERE SHOULD WE PRAISE THE LORD? Everywhere! In the sanctuary below and in the heavens above.

WHY SHOULD WE PRAISE THE LORD? Because of WHAT He has done and because of WHO He is!

Next, the Psalmist tells us.........
III. HOW We Should Praise the LORD (vs. 3-5)

READ-----verses 3-5

1. What you see in these verses is a symphonic orchestra of praise. Some of these instruments we recognize, others we don’t.

   - the trumpet is a brass instrument.
   - the flute is a woodwind instrument.
   - the harp and the lyre are stringed instruments (and you notice in verse 4 it simply says “strings.” That is likely referring to other Jewish stringed instruments such as the lute, the psaltery, the organ and the trigon)
   - the tambourine, the cymbals, and resounding cymbals are all percussion instruments.

2. But you notice the Psalmist also says in verse 4 to praise the LORD with “dancing.”

   This is not referring to the wild gyrations like one would see at a nightclub or a dance hall or like you would see on “Dancing With The Stars.”

   The kind of dancing referred to here is the kind typically seen during Jewish festivals and celebrations. The people would dance in beautiful, artistic synchronized circles while the music played. Now I’m not suggesting that we start “dancing” in our worship services here at Christian Hope. I mean can any of you even begin to imagine in your wildest dreams, Gary, Dwayne, Rodney, Steve, Raymond, Eric and Wylie dancing gracefully in synchronized circles?

But I did see this in one of the villages where I preached in India. During the service about eight young Indian girls dressed in beautiful, brightly colored flowing gowns, danced in perfect unison, while holding long brightly colored scarves in each hand.

There was nothing distasteful or irreverent about it. In fact, it was very worshipful.
3. Now perhaps you are sitting there thinking, “Well I don’t play any kind of musical instrument. And I look like a cow on roller skates when I dance. How can I praise the LORD?”

4. I believe what the Psalmist is saying is “Pull out all the stops and give it all you’ve got when you praise the LORD!”

Now I know what some of you are probably thinking. You’re probably thinking, “That’s just not my personality. I’m quiet and reserved.”

Well let me ask you something........

- Are you quiet and reserved when you’re watching a football game and your team scores the winning touchdown?

- Are you quiet and reserved when you’re watching a basketball game and your favorite team scores the winning basket with two seconds left in the game?

- Are you quiet and reserved when your favorite NASCAR driver wins a race?

- Are you quiet and reserved when you hook a big fish or when you shoot a big buck?

- Ladies, are you quiet and reserved when you come across a great sale at a store?

Just some food for thought!

Illustration----I read about a man who came to Christ from a very non-religious background. When he was baptized he came up out of the water clapping his hands for joy and shouting, “Hot dog! Hot dog! Hot dog!”

Now some older, more mature Christians would probably frown upon that guy. I mean isn’t it irreverent to say “Hot dog” to God?

Let me ask you something. Which do you believe is more pleasing to God, a genuine, heartfelt “hot dog!” Or a half-hearted or heartless “amen?”

(Paul Tan, Encyclopedia of 7,700 Illustrations, Assurance Publishers)
WHERE SHOULD WE PRAISE THE LORD?  Everywhere! In the sanctuary below and in the heavens above!

WHY SHOULD WE PRAISE THE LORD?  Because of WHAT HE HAS DONE and WHO HE IS!

HOW SHOULD WE PRAISE THE LORD?  Praise Him with ALL we’ve got!

And finally let’s consider………

IV. WHO Should Praise The LORD?  (v. 6)

v. 6 “Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD!”

1. There is only one qualification one needs to praise the LORD and that is you must be breathing.

2. Now that tells us three things:

(a) The first thing it tells me is that praising God has nothing to do with any special ability.

- I don’t have to be able to sing.
- I don’t have to be able to play an instrument.
- I don’t have to be able to speak with eloquent words.

As long as I have breath in my body I can praise the LORD!

(b) The second thing it tells me is this: If I have breath in my body I have no excuse not to praise the LORD.

- I’m not in the mood! Not an excuse!
- I don’t “feel” like praising God! Not an excuse!
- I’ve had a “bad day.” Not an excuse!

Listen very carefully! Praising God is not based upon my circumstances. Praising God is based on God’s worthiness to be praised regardless of my circumstances.
(c) The third thing verse 6 is telling me is this: **Praising the LORD is not an OPTION it’s a COMMAND.**

Remember earlier I told you the word “praise” appears thirteen times in this Psalm?

That’s thirteen commands to praise! Not suggestions! Not recommendations! But commands!

“Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD!”

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C O N C L U S I O N

Praising the LORD is important to GOD! The scriptures teach us that “God inhabits the praises of His people.

If our PRAISE is that important to GOD. And our PRAISE pleases GOD. Then shouldn’t PRAISING GOD be the most important thing to us?

Do you know that PRAISING THE LORD not only strengthens our relationship with GOD it is also the solution to some of our most nagging problems?

-Praising the LORD is the solution to NEGATIVE THINKING!
-Praising the LORD is the solution to COMPLAINING!
-Praising the LORD is the solution to SELF-PITY!

Praising the LORD lifts your spirits when you are down….. replaces fear with courage……hopelessness with hope….. sadness with joy……doubt with confidence……and worry with worship.

“Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD!”

And all of God’s people said, “Amen!”
CONCLUSION

Most of us are most familiar with Darlene Zschech as the internationally known worship leader and author of such choruses as "Shout to the Lord," but her life wasn’t always as together as we see it now. As newlyweds, Mark and Darlene struggled financially. Darlene earned small change singing commercial jingles for Kentucky Fried Chicken, Diet Coke and McDonald’s. Mark struggled to keep their motorcycle parts business afloat to support Darlene and their two young children. It was then that Darlene decided to praise God through the struggle. "I learned we’ll never find hope looking at our circumstances," she says. "It’s only found by fixing our eyes on Jesus who doesn’t change and who’s always faithful."(Darlene Zschech, "The Power of Worship on CBN.org)

Let’s just praise the LORD, praise the LORD, Let’s just lift our voice toward heaven, and praise the LORD. Let’s just praise the LORD, praise the LORD, Let’s just lift our voice toward heaven, and praise the LORD.

-Bill & Gloria Gaither

“Let everything that has breath, praise the LORD, praise the LORD!”