

10 January 2021

To all members of the St James Traditional Services

A Weekly Word of Encouragement: In everything, Praise the Lord.

The final, climactic moment to the Psalter: Psalm 150 – read it joyfully!

“Praise the Lord” (Laudate Dominum): at the beginning and at the end. Hallelujah: a fusion of 2 Hebrew words “Hallel” = praise ye and “Jah” = a contraction of the name of God: Jehovah (the Lord).

Caste off despondency and depression and **Praise the Lord: Everywhere** (v.1); for **Everything** (v.2); in **Every way** (v.3-5); **Everyone** (v.6). Every possible experience in life and everything in creation will end in praise to God.

Psalm 1 (the beginning of the Psalter) sets before us 2 ways to live: only the way of the righteous ends in eternal blessing. But living God’s way is not as easy as we thought as the intervening psalms from Psalm 1 to Psalm 150 tell us. There are conflicts, burdens, failures, pain and suffering for each believer and for the whole people of God. **But the end is glorious.** God will deal with all things (even human sin) in such a way that all will redound to His glory and fulfil His purpose.

So “Praise the Lord”. We praise what we enjoy and delight in; indeed all enjoyment spontaneously overflows in praise. The worthier the object, the more intense the delight would be, and nothing is more worthy than God. The call to praise Him is an invitation to enjoy Him – for Eternity.

Notice how exuberant Praise is expressed in Psalm 150: noisy instruments and dancing, with lots of gusto and rowdiness. However praise is expressed, God’s concern is that it is an overflowing devotion of our heart and mind. Praise the Lord.

Prayer

Let all the world in ev’ry corner sing,
My God and King.
The church with psalms must shout,
Not doore can keep them out:
But above all the heart
Must bear the longest part.
Let all the world in ev’ry corner sing,
My God and King

George Herbert

Remember

- keep praying daily
- keep reading God's Word
- join us online or face-to-face at St James

With Christian love,

Robert