

Outline

Introduction:

What is praise? Praise is to be a way of life for the believer....

Ephesians 1:6 (NASB) ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

Ephesians 1:12 (NASB) ¹² to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory.

Ephesians 1:14 (NASB) ¹⁴ who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.

1 Corinthians 10:31 (NASB) ³¹ Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.



Outline (continued)

I. The Path To... _____

Matthew 2:10 (NASB) ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.

II. The Path To... _____

Matthew 2:11 (NASB) ¹¹ After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.



Outline (continued)

III. The Path To... _____

Matthew 2:11 (NASB) ¹¹ After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.



Outline (continued)

IV. The Path To... _____

Matthew 2:11 (NASB) ¹¹ After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.



Outline (continued)

INDIVIDUALS HEARING ABOUT THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

(some also about John the Baptist)

Zacharias & Elizabeth Luke 1:5-26,36,39-45,57-80

Mary Luke 1:26-56; 2:1-7,21-38

Joseph and Mary Luke 2:1-7,21-33,36-38 (see Leviticus 12:1-8 for the circumcision and presenting to the Lord forty-one days after the birth of a male child, Jesus – Luke 2:21-24)

Shepherds Luke 2:8-20 Simeon Luke 2:25-35

Anna Luke 2:36-38



Outline (continued)

CROWDS HEARING ABOUT THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

(some also about John the Baptist)

Luke 2:10,21-22,65-66; 2:17-18,38

Luke 1:65-66 (NASB) 65 Fear came on all those living around them; and all these matters were being talked about in all the hill country of Judea. 66 All who heard them kept them in mind, saying, "What then will this child turn out to be?" For the hand of the Lord was certainly with him.



Outline (continued)

Luke 2:10-11 (NASB) ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; ¹¹ for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:18 (NASB) ¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at the things which were told them by the shepherds.

Before the Birth of Jesus Crowds Luke 1:10,21-23,60-66

At the Birth of Jesus Shepherds Luke 2:15-20



Outline (continued)

Shortly After the Birth of Jesus Shepherds Luke 2:15-20

Simeon Luke 2:25-35 Anna Luke 2:36-28

Matthew uses the word “worship” or “bow down” (προσκυνέω
proskuneô) many times

A leper Mt 8:2

The two women at the tomb Mt 28:9

A religious ruler Mt 9:18

A group of children Mt 21:16

His disciples Mt 14:33; 28:17

A Canaanite woman Mt 15:25

The mother of James and John Mt 20:20



Outline (continued)

V. The Path To... _____

Matthew 2:11 (NASB) ¹¹ After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.



Outline (continued)

VI. The Path To... _____

Matthew 2:12 (NASB) ¹² And having been warned by God in a dream not to return to Herod, the magi left for their own country by another way.



Outline (continued)

Conclusion:

“When you begin with praise to God, a day or a circumstance is moved out of the fog of limited potential into the realm of heaven’s promised purposes. Praise clears your head in the atmosphere of God’s throne where one kneels. It sharpens your vision to see through the eyes of God; and it expands your soul beyond the smallness of purpose when the focus is only on self-centered concerns. Praise opens the heart to the receptivity of God’s truth. Praise humbles the soul and restores child-likeness. Praise peels back pride and rips away the flesh’s tendency to posture itself. We find reality on our knees. God is touched by upraised hands. Wisdom and understanding flow back into lips which first utter thanks to the Most High.” - Pastor Jack Hayford



Outline (continued)

Psalm 34:1 (NASB) ¹ I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

Psalm 71:6 (NASB) ⁶ By You I have been sustained from my birth; You are He who took me from my mother's womb; My praise is continually of You.

Psalm 35:28 (NASB) ²⁸ And my tongue shall declare Your righteousness And Your praise all day long.



Outline (continued)

Habakkuk 3:17-18 (NASB) ¹⁷ Though the fig tree should not blossom And there be no fruit on the vines, Though the yield of the olive should fail And the fields produce no food, Though the flock should be cut off from the fold And there be no cattle in the stalls, ¹⁸ Yet I will exult in the LORD, I will rejoice in the God of my salvation.



Message slides:

God's Christmas Gifts



Praise

Matthew 2:9-12 (NASB)

Praise: The Path To...



Matthew 2:9-12 (NASB)

Origin of the word "PRAISE"

From the old French word *Presier* meaning:
to Prize

When we prize something we...

Esteem It!

Cherish It!

Treasure It!

Value It!

Appraise It!

Price It!



PRAISE: THE PATH TO...

I. Joy



9 After hearing the king, they went their way; and the star, which they had seen in the east, went on before them until it came and stood over *the place* where the Child was.

Matthew 2:9 (NASB)



¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.

Matthew 2:10 (NASB)



ἐχάρησαν	χαρὰν	μεγάλην	σφόδρα
<u>echarēsan</u>	<u>charan</u>	<u>megalēn</u>	<u>sphodra</u>
they rejoiced	joy	great	exceedingly
Verb	Noun	Adjective	Adverb

Matthew 2:10 (Greek)



PRAISE: THE PATH TO...

I. Joy

II. Attraction



¹¹ After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Matthew 2:11 (NASB)



PRAISE: THE PATH TO...

I. Joy

II. Attraction

III. Humility



¹¹ After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Matthew 2:11 (NASB)



PRAISE: THE PATH TO...

I. Joy

II. Attraction

III. Humility

IV. Worship



¹¹ After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Matthew 2:11 (NASB)



PRAISE: THE PATH TO...

I. Joy

II. Attraction

III. Humility

IV. Worship

V. Giving



¹¹ After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Matthew 2:11 (NASB)



PRAISE: THE PATH TO...

- I. Joy
- II. Attraction
- III. Humility
- IV. Worship
- V. Giving
- VI. Guidance



¹² And having been warned *by God* in a dream not to return to Herod, the magi left for their own country by another way.

Matthew 2:12 (NASB)





St. Paul's Cathedral

London
England

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St_Paul%27s_Cathedral

**Jonathan
& Mary
Schaeffer**

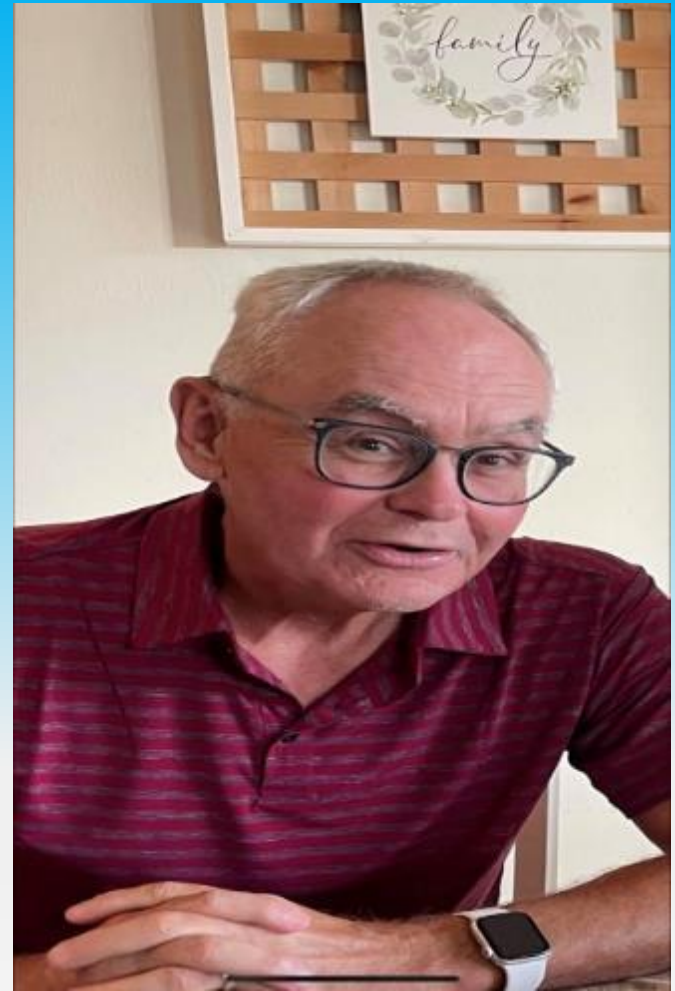
**Grace
Church
Cleveland,
Ohio**





**Scott &
Sarah
Borden**

**Former
Pastor of
Bridge
Community
Church**



Questions

1. Are you frugal with your money? Are you fairly generous with your money? Are you very generous with your money? What was your family like growing up when it came to handling money and giving to others?
2. When it came to giving gifts at Christmas, were your experiences as a kid more like receiving gifts from "Scrooge" or more like receiving gifts from "Santa"? What was your best gift at Christmas as a kid?
3. What are some of your most prized possessions? Who are some of your prized people in your life?



Questions (continued)

4. What are some of the things in life that give you great joy?
Mt 2:10
5. What motivates you to be attracted to the Lord Jesus Christ?
6. How does praising someone else or the Lord, relate to the concept of humility? Is it easy for you to praise others? Is it easy for you to receive praise?



Questions (continued)

7. What does worship mean for you on Sunday morning?
What does worship mean for you in your quiet time?
What images or thoughts does the word “worship” bring up in your head?
8. How would praising the Lord and worshiping Him impact where you seek guidance and counsel from in your daily life? What does praising the Lord and worshiping look like in your daily life?



Questions (continued)

9. Praise means to consider something worthy of honor. It is to esteem, value, or cherish a person for His virtues or accomplishments. Therefore in praising God, we can begin to praise the Lord for the following biblical themes. Which of these are you more likely to praise the Lord for in your daily quiet time or during a typical day?



Questions (continued)

- a. Praise God for His NAME – Names of the Lord = God / Jesus / Holy Spirit Psalm 115:1; Is 9:6
- b. Praise God for His RIGHTEOUSNESS - Psalm 35:28
God is the standard. He is right and just.
- c. Praise God for His infinite CREATION – Psalm 150:2
Praise Him for His mighty acts. All of creation is a treasure house of praise.



Questions (continued)

d. Praise God for His WORD - Psalm 19:7-11

Psalm 19 offers a helpful outline to praise our Lord in regards to His Word :

- 1) Psalm 19:7 for converting the soul
- 2) Psalm 19:7 for making wise the simple
- 3) Psalm 19:8 for rejoicing the heart
- 4) Psalm 19:8 for enlightening the eyes
- 5) Psalm 19:9 for giving us a fear of the Lord which is cleansing and enduring forever
- 6) Psalm 19:9 for giving us the judgments of the Lord which are true and righteous



Questions (continued)

Psalm 19:7-11 (NASB) ⁷ The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. ⁸ The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. ⁹ The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether. ¹⁰ They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb. ¹¹ Moreover, by them Your servant is warned; In keeping them there is great reward.



Questions (continued)

10. Psalm 100 has a myriad of words that are like “praise”. Read slowly through Psalm 100 and share with the group what strikes you the most about this typically “Thanksgiving” Psalm.

Psalm 100:1-5 (NASB) ¹ Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth.

² Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before Him with joyful singing.

³ Know that the LORD Himself is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

⁴ Enter His gates with thanksgiving And His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name.

⁵ For the LORD is good; His lovingkindness is everlasting And His faithfulness to all generations.



Questions (continued)

Below are “worship” words from Psalm 100:

רוּץ run	Strong # 7321	Psalm 100:1	Shout joyfully
שִׂמְחָה simchah	Strong #8057	Psalm 100:2	Gladness
רִנָּה renanah	Strong # 7445	Psalm 100:2	Joyful singing
תּוֹדָה todah	Strong # 8426	Psalm 100:4	Thanksgiving
תְּהִלָּה tehillah	Strong # 8416	Psalm 100:4	Praise
יָדָה yadah	Strong # 3034	Psalm 100:4	Thanks
בָּרַךְ barak	Strong # 1288	Psalm 100:4	Bless



Questions (continued)

11. When are we to praise the Lord?

Psalm 35:28 (NASB) ²⁸ And my tongue shall declare Your righteousness And Your praise all day long.

Psalm 34:1 (NASB) ¹ I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

Psalm 71:6 (NASB) ⁶ By You I have been sustained from my birth; You are He who took me from my mother's womb; My praise is continually of You.

