

**LESSON #10 –A CHRISTIAN'S CALL TO PRAISE**

**A CHRISTIAN'S CALL** –Billy Graham said, "People go to a football game today and shout their heads off, or go to a circus and cheer act after act. They become enthusiastic about everything conceivable, but when it comes to spiritual matters, they think we are supposed to become sober and wear black, and never have a good time or enjoy a religious event." This lesson deals with a Christian's enthusiastic call to praise. We begin with prayer:

**THE PRAYER** – Dear Lord, for those times when we have come to you with our under-confident requests and half-hearted *hallelujahs* we offer our repentance and regrets. Create in us new hearts that are a bright witness to Jesus Christ, the true Light of the world. In His Name we pray. Amen.

**ILLUSTRATION** - How do you sell 700 percent more oil filters than you ever did before? The answer is one word: \_\_\_\_\_.

**SATAN'S SUMMONS** – Of course Satan would summon us away from any type of enthusiasm for the Lord. He knows that coldness is contagious, seeping from one heart to another, until there is no longer any warmth in worship.

**THOUGHT:** Through the prophet Jeremiah, and many others, the Lord encouraged His people to call to Him. There is no doubt that He wants us to do so with "enthusiasm." This word, *enthusiasm*, comes from two, smaller, Greek words: *en* meaning \_\_\_\_\_, *theos* meaning \_\_\_\_\_; literally, God \_\_\_\_\_. Look at Matthew 23 and list some of the unpraiseworthy actions of the Pharisees.

**SCRIPTURE SEARCH 1** – Matthew 23

**TEXT**

**WHAT KIND OF LIVING IS TO BE REJECTED**

- |          |   |                |
|----------|---|----------------|
| v. 4     | What should we do with the burdens of others?   | _____          |
| v. 5     | How should we do our good works?  | _____          |
| v. 7-8   | Who deserves praise?<br>Is it wrong to praise other people?   | _____<br>_____ |
| v. 24    | We take small things and make them seem overly important.<br>What should be most important?   | _____          |
| v. 27-28 | Worry about the outside appearance of our lives but forget that the inside is most important.<br>What should be most important?<br>In short.... | _____<br>_____ |

**FIRST APPLICATION:** In the sixth century, an Egyptian monk, by the name of Agathon, was asked by his brothers, "Amongst all our different activities, Father, which is the virtue that requires the greatest effort?" He answered, "Forgive me, but I think there is no labor greater than praise to God. For every time a man wants to praise, his enemies, the demons, try to prevent him; for they know that nothing obstructs them so much as praise to God. In everything else that a man undertakes, if he perseveres, he will attain rest. But in order to praise, a man must struggle to his last breath."

Agathon was a man who took his prayer and praise seriously. For most of us, living a life of praise does not have to be a life and death battle. It should rather be an act of joy. List, if you would just a few of the things for which a Christian should come to the Lord in praise:


Those are the things for which most people give praise. But how about some of the smaller things, like:


**JEREMIAH 33:3 "CALL TO ME" GROUP BIBLE STUDIES – LEARNER'S STUDY -  
LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES**

All of these things...and hundreds more like them... can lead to a life of praise.... if we see them. In our second Scripture search let's see Christ's call to a life of praise:

**SCRIPTURE SEARCH 2 - CHRIST'S CALL -**

<b>TEXT</b>	<b>QUESTION</b>	<b>WHOSE WILL WAS ANSWERED</b>
1 Thess 5: 16-18	What are we to do?	_____
Psalms 75: 1	For what are we to praise the Lord?	_____
1 Timothy 4: 3-4	What has God given us that can lead to a life of praise?	_____
2 Cor. 9: 11	For what should we be filled with praise?	_____
Psalms 92: 1	Why should we have this life of praise?	_____
Hebrews 13: 15	What is the praiseworthy Name on our lips?	_____
Philippians 4: 6	What is not compatible with a life of praise?	_____

In case the point is not made, take a quick look at these passages and see who praised the Lord:

Luke 5: 24-25 \_\_\_\_\_ Luke 8: 38-39 \_\_\_\_\_ Luke 13: 10-13 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Luke 17: 12-16 \_\_\_\_\_ Luke 18: 40-43 \_\_\_\_\_ John 4: 49-53 \_\_\_\_\_

**THOUGHT & ILLUSTRATION** - Having looked at that last batch of Bible verses, one thing occurs to me. The people who really should have praised the Lord SHOULD have been the people who never had \_\_\_\_\_, who were never \_\_\_\_\_, who were never \_\_\_\_\_, who were never \_\_\_\_\_, who were never \_\_\_\_\_, or who had a high \_\_\_\_\_.

Christians should never be forced to a life of reluctant praise. Redeemed by Christ, we should be enthusiastic soldiers of the cross. Can you list just a few ways your church can, or should become enthusiastic?

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

**THE WAY OF PRAYER** – Dear Lord, be with us. We do not ask for false enthusiasm. Instead we pray for a new heart and mind that will see and praise You for the wondrous things You have done. Amen.