

September 2020

*It has been said, "The heart cannot rejoice in what the mind does not comprehend."  
Word of Truth aims to establish the proper link of emotion and intellect  
by opening a window on the word.*

Chester McCalley

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## Sound Doctrine

### Principles of Praise

**W**e must begin with a working definition of praise. Praise is the enthusiastic response to God's person and performance. It is the logical and vocal response to the character and works of God.

#### **Praise is always the result of some historic act of God.**

Psalm 30:2 says, "O LORD my God, I cried to You for help, and You healed me." A historic physical deliverance of some sort is the cause for praise. Biblical praise is never "Praise the Lord"—it always attaches to some specific event. Psalm 32:5 relates to a historic act of restoration. Psalm 89:1-4 is praise for the Davidic Covenant.

Here is the criteria for distinguishing a good Christian song from a poor one. A good song emphasizes what God has done and lets one respond to it. A poor song takes a historic act of God and then gives you the song writer's response to it, placing the song writer between you and God. A good song follows this formula: Act of God—you. A poor song follows this formula: Act of God—writer's response—you.

#### **Praise for a specific event expands into a generalization about God's character.**

Psalm 116:5-6 is an example. Verse 6 looks at a specific event saying, "I was brought low, and He saved me." Verse 5 makes a generalization based on that event saying, "Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; yes, our God is

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## Suggested Studies

### The Believer and Old Age

**G**etting old! If ever there was an unpopular subject, this has to be it. We live in a world that worships youth and encourages us to fight the aging process with every ounce of energy we possess. But face it—sooner or later, most of us will reach that point in life known as old age. Oftentimes, we find ourselves dealing with the issue of old age through caring for an aging parent. Wouldn't it be a good idea to find out what God's word says about the believer and old age?

Several times throughout the years, Chester taught on the subject of age. The first series was taught way back in 1987 when he presented a two part lesson on the "Divine Viewpoint on Aging." These messages are coded BP 45-46. The following topics are covered:

- The Preparation for Old Age - Numbers 13-14
- The Prayer of Old Age - Psalm 71
- The Support of Old Age - Isaiah 46:3-4
- The Fruit of Old Age - Psalm 92:12-15
- The Peril of Old Age - Ecclesiastes 4:13
- The Secret of Old Age - Proverbs 10:27
- The Culmination of Old Age

Some time later, he presented "A Message to Youth about Old Age." It is coded BP 142. A third session on aging is called simply "The Believer and Age, parts 1 & 2." These lessons are BP 194-195.

To order these classes, just mark the appropriate items on the enclosed order form or email your order to [wtruth@kc.rr.com](mailto:wtruth@kc.rr.com). Please be sure to indicate if you want these studies in CD or Mp3 format. These classes are also available for download and streaming on the website, [www.wordoftruthkc.org](http://www.wordoftruthkc.org). □

### Website Update

**T**hank you for your patience as we have experienced recent problems with our website, [www.wordoftruthkc.org](http://www.wordoftruthkc.org). Please know that our intention is to keep Chester's Bible study materials available on the internet for long as we're allowed to do so. We have users all over the world who depend on the site for sound teaching. The platform for the website had to be updated and, as this goes to print, we're still making tweaks to the site to make it smooth and easy to use. □

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compassionate." Exodus 15:3-4 is another example. Verse 4 looks at a specific event telling us that, "Pharaoh's chariots and his army He has cast into the sea..."; and verse 3 generalizes saying, "The LORD is a warrior..."

**Praise always focuses on adoration of God's character, not man's.**

The focus of God's Word is not "Oh, how I love Jesus"; the focus of Scripture is "Oh, how Jesus loves me." History is not going to stop because one does or doesn't love Jesus. If, however, Jesus does not love us, history is in big trouble. Psalm 95:1-3 begins with a call to praise and then encourages all to join in, "For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods." I Samuel 2:1-2 is another good example of this point.

**Praise is intended to be cosmic.**

Praise is like dropping a rock in quiet water and watching the ripples go out from it. Psalm 22:25-29 reflects this cosmic idea as it culminates in verse 29 saying, "All the prosperous of the earth will eat and worship..." Psalm 47:1 exhorts, "O clap your hands, all peoples..." Psalm 96:1 reads, "Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth."

**Praise is an indication of normality;  
lack of it is an indication of abnormality.**

Psalm 33:1 says, "Sing for joy in the LORD, O you righteous ones; praise is becoming to the upright." Psalm 116:12 asks, "What shall I render to the LORD for all His benefits toward me?" and verse 17 answers, "To Thee I shall offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving..." □

## It's Time to Order Christmas Cards!

**W**ith Christmas about three months away, it's time to think about ordering Christmas cards. We have a variety of cards that we have offered over the past 10 years. The cards are briefly described on the enclosed order form, but you can view all of these beautiful cards, complete with their messages, in color on our website, [www.wordoftruthkc.org](http://www.wordoftruthkc.org).

We also have several small publications that are the right size to use as enclosures. "God's Path to Salvation," "God's Path to Fellowship," and "The Indescribable Gift" can be included in your Christmas cards with no extra postage required.

As with all Word of Truth material, Christmas cards are available on a grace basis. This means we rely on those who use our cards to contribute financially as they are able and appreciation of the card dictates.

Use the enclosed form to place your order for cards and publications. You can also email your order to [wtruth@kc.rr.com](mailto:wtruth@kc.rr.com) or call and leave a message at **1-800-326-4414**. Include your phone number in case we need to contact you about your order. Please be specific about which cards you'd like and place your order early to guarantee availability. □