

Thoughts on Praise

Eph 5:15-20 “ Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart,

Thoughts on Praise

²⁰ giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Thoughts on Praise

1. Worthy Of Our Attention

- 5:1-2 “Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. ² And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.
- look carefully *how* you walk
- make the *best use* of time

Thoughts on Praise

a) Don't be....

- foolish

- drunk with wine (debauchery)

b) Do be

- understanding the Lord's will

- Filled with the Holy Spirit

Thoughts on Praise

2. Worthy of Your Participation

a) right response to the work of the Holy Spirit

- expression of a fullness and wonder

- careful that it is genuine – Amos 5:23-24

Take away from me the noise of your song to the melody of your harps I will not listen.

²⁴ But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing
stream

Thoughts on Praise

b) Involves your Heart

- making melody in your heart
- love the Lord your God with all your heart.....
- feeding the affections changes heart

c) Offered 'to the Lord'

- singing and making melody to the Lord

Thoughts on Praise

d) Is a response to Truth vs.20

- giving thanks
- for everything
- to God the Father

e) Commanded in Community

- addressing one another
- submitting to one another

Thoughts on Praise

- 1 Cor. 14:15-16 “ What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also.

¹⁶ Otherwise, if you give thanks with your spirit, how can anyone in the position of an outsider say “Amen” to your thanksgiving when he does not know what you are saying?

¹⁷ For you may be giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not being built up.

Thoughts on Praise

¹⁸ I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. ¹⁹ Nevertheless, in church I would rather speak five words with my mind in order to instruct others, than ten thousand words in a tongue.

Thoughts on Praise

f) Varied in it's Forms

- psalms, hymns, spiritual songs
- God is creative, made us unique

2. Worthy of Imitating Jesus by Singing

- Mark 14:26 “ And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Thoughts on Praise

So What?

1. Give this some careful attention
 - consider participation
 - guard against
 - pursue
2. Determine to Participate
 - alignment of heart important
 - my expression and declaration matters
 - aware of and including others
 - embracing forms