

A SONG OF PRAISE TO OUR GOD

- Bob Kauflin -

I. Introduction

"Show me a church's songs and I'll show you their theology." (Gordon Fee)

A theologian is simply someone who studies God. Everyone of us is a theologian. The question is whether or not we're good ones.

II. Why do we write "songs of praise?"

A. Because we've encountered God

Ps. 40:2 He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.

B. Because God is God.

III. What is a "song of praise?"

A. A song that celebrates, cherishes, and desires God and His work in our lives.

Ps. 63:1 O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

B. A song that extols, exalts, and expounds on God and his works.

1. Theologians and pastors once were the main composers of congregational song. Not true any more!
2. Do people know how great God is from the songs I write?
3. The greatest theme we can take up is the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the cross. (see 1 Cor. 15:1-4 and Gal. 6:14)
4. Worship is boasting in God! Specifically, boasting in our Savior. (Ps. 34:2)

a. Without the cross we have **no access** to God

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of

faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Heb. 10:19-22

- b. Without the cross, we have **no acceptable worship**.

1Pet. 2:4 As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, 5 you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

- c. Without the cross, there is **no worship in heaven**.

Rev. 5:12 "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"

IV. Who do we write our songs of praise for?

- A. For people, esp. the church

Col. 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

1. To teach
2. To admonish – correcting our faulty thinking.
3. To express (Ps. 57:7-9)
4. To bring joy (Ps. 92:1-3)

- B. For God – a hymn of praise **to our God**.

1. 1 Cor. 10:31 says "whether you eat or drink..."
2. God should be foremost in our thoughts and affections when we're writing songs of praise. HIS glory, HIS praise, HIS honor.

V. Conclusion

- A. God is the great, granite, unchanging, eternal reality. Our songs try to reflect, in some dim way, His glory and greatness.
- B. The best we can do is the most insignificant reflection of who He is and yet, HE is the one who gives us songs of praise to sing and write. So may we be faithful to the one who gives us songs of praise to our God.