



TRACK 5: TURN IT UP!

Sermon Notes

Text: Psalm 98

Introduction

Have you ever been talked into doing something that you didn't want to do, but in the end you had a lot of fun?

In the long list of exciting things that I never feel like doing, praise often makes it on that list.

Praise has everything to do with God and almost nothing to do with us. Our feelings aren't even acknowledged. What is acknowledged is God's marvellous or miraculous deeds. Praise has nothing to do with our feelings, but everything to do with who He is.

"Do not say, 'But it is hypocritical to thank God with my tongue when I don't feel thankful in my heart.' There is such a thing as hypocritical thanksgiving. Its aim is to conceal ingratitude and get the praise of men. That is not your aim. Your aim in loosing your tongue with words of gratitude is that God would be merciful and fill your words with the emotion of true gratitude. You are not seeking the praise of men; you are seeing the mercy of God. You are not hiding the hardness of ingratitude, but hoping for the in-breaking of the Spirit." – John Piper

1. Turn to HIM

The difference between defeated praise and victorious praise is just a shift in perspective from us, to HIM.

We praise God because he has done "marvelous things".

2. Turn it Up!

Sometimes you just have to turn up the music. And in church and in life, sometimes you just got to turn up the praise.

There is a steady increase in volume from singing, to shouting, to bursting into jubilant song with music. Followed by instruments of increasing volume. Volume is a large component of worship.

3. Turn to Home

Praise not only looks back to what God has done, but also forward for what is to come.

Romans 8:19 Paul says; "For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed."

The best is yet to come!

Conclusion

Life Group Discussion

1. Have you ever been talked into doing something you didn't want to do, but ended up having a good time? Share your experience.
2. Read Psalm 98. What kind of circumstances or internal motives have stolen your praise?
 - What role do our feelings play in praise?
3. Read Isaiah 29:13 and Philippians 4:4. What is the difference between hypocritical praise and praising in spite of circumstances? How can we keep from being hypocritical in our praise?

4. What role does volume (v.4) play in worship? How about new songs (v.1)? Is there a balance between tradition and new ways and styles of music? What does that look like?

5. Read verses 7-9 again. Is the judgement something that makes you “burst” into song? Read Revelation 19:11-15 & 21:1-4 for perspective.

- How can we as a group make “His salvation known”?

6. Pray together:

- a) Pray that God would make us a people of praise
- b) Pray that we would invite people to praise God and come to a relationship with Him.
- c) Other requests:
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