

welcome to the
fruit factory
What fruit is your life producing?



Pastor Hugh's Message Series Sundays 9am & 10:30am

The Fruit of Praise (Heb 13:15-16)

March 23, 2025

Heb 13:15-16 (NKJV)

15 Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of *our* lips, giving thanks to His name. 16 But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

- A. Welcome to the Fruit Factory! As I have been sharing each week, as a Church and as Christians we are to be fruit factories for Jesus.

Your life should be producing the fruit of Jesus.

And in fact, the longer you live for Jesus, the more fruit of Jesus you should produce.

- B. Last week we discovered that God wants to produce the fruit of righteousness in your life.

God is always working His BEST

God is always working out My MESS

God is always working to BLESS

- C. Today, we come to another fruit in the Word of God, and it's the fruit of praise.

If there is anything people should know about you, see in you, and hear from you, it is that you know how to give praise to the Lord.

Throughout the Bible God's people when they are tuned into God are always giving Him praise.

In fact, King David writes about praise some 126 times in the Psalms.

- D. Psalm 33:1(NIV)

Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous;
it is fitting for the upright to praise him.

Psalm 100:4 (NAS)

Enter His gates with thanksgiving
And His courts with praise.

**Psalm 150 (NAS), one of David's most famous psalms,
David tells us to not hold back our praise to God.**

Praise the Lord!

Praise God in His sanctuary;

Praise Him in His mighty expanse.

² Praise Him for His mighty deeds;
Praise Him according to His excellent greatness.
³ Praise Him with trumpet sound;
Praise Him with harp and lyre.
⁴ Praise Him with timbrel and dancing;
Praise Him with stringed instruments and pipe.
⁵ Praise Him with loud cymbals;
Praise Him with resounding cymbals.
⁶ Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.
Praise the Lord!

And can anyone guess what we will be doing in Heaven?
Praising the Lord

In fact, that pretty much sums up ALL we will be doing
in Heaven.

No doubt, we will be working, serving, learning,
exploring, enjoying all our family & friends in Heaven,
but it will all be done in praise of the Lord.

E. God created you to give Him praise.

Isaiah 43:21 (God says...)

The people I formed for myself
will declare my praise.

What's clear from God's Word is that if you KNOW God,
you will PRAISE God.

F. In fact, I think we can say this:

When guests come to Pearl, they should discover
2 amazing characteristics:

- (1) We are the most friendly & loving people on the planet.
- (2) We are the most praising-God people on the planet.

G. You want to talk about church that will not just make an
impression, but make an impact for Jesus, just be known
as the most loving people on the planet and the most
praising-God people on the planet.

God will use that church to change the world.

And guess what? Those 2 characteristics should sum up
your life.

H. And so this morning, I want to share with you 3 thoughts
about praising the Lord.
And the first one is this:

1. I Praise God for GIVING His Life

Heb. 13:15

Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise
to God

A. Notice the first 3 words of that verse, "Therefore by Him."
Who's Him? It's not you. It's not God. It's JESUS.
Why does the writer of Hebrews refer to Jesus?

- B. In fact, he says, “BY” Jesus let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God.”

And if you really want to go deep, a better word than “by” is the word “through.”

So, “THROUGH” Jesus let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God.”

- C. Why is that significant?

Well, let me show you.

Now bear with me, because I have to take you through some OT/Jewish history. But once you get it, you’ll never forget it. And you’ll be praising Jesus like you never have before.

(1) Heb. 13:8

⁸ Jesus Christ *is* the same yesterday and today and forever.

- a) Jesus has never changed and never will.
He’s been the same from eternity past and will be the same into eternity future.

And I’ll tell you the most important thing about Jesus that has never changed:
The way of salvation!

- b) Jews preached salvation by keeping rules & rituals. Jesus preached salvation by GRACE.

Jews said there had to be a literal altar of sacrifice for the sins of the people.
And the blood of the goat had to be sprinkled on the Mercy Seat in the Holy of Holies.
It’s the only way your sins can be covered.

- c) But Jesus said there’s another way, and in fact, it’s the only way. And it’s HIS GRACE.

(2) Heb. 13:9

⁹ Do not be carried away by varied and strange teachings; for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, through which those who were so occupied were not benefited.

- (a) God wants you to major not in OT rules, rituals, & regulations. He wants you to major in GRACE.
And what is grace?
Grace is God’s unearned and unmerited favor.
It’s God giving you that which you do not deserve.
And here’s the good news: You don’t have to do anything to get it. You simply receive it by faith.

(b) But if you decide rules & rituals are the way to salvation, you're going to miss God, salvation, and Heaven by a country mile.
Because rules & rituals provided ZERO benefit to the Jews SPIRITUALLY.

(c) v. 9b not by (eating ceremonial) foods, through which those who were so occupied (ate) were not benefited.

They benefited nothing from eating the ceremonial foods.

In other words, rules and rituals did nothing for the Jews SPIRITUALLY.

It only REMINDED them they had sin.

It couldn't REMOVE their sin.

(d) Rules & rituals were never meant to get you to God. They were meant to get you to the only ONE who could. And His name is JESUS.

They were a foreshadowing of Jesus.

They were pointing you to Jesus.

If you are all about following rules & rituals; like you keep all the feasts of Israel and you refuse to eat ham sandwiches, and you worship on Saturday & not Sunday; that may impress people, but they doesn't impress God.

(3) Heb. 13:10

¹⁰ We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat.

a) One of the objections by the Jews about the church, was we don't have a literal altar for animal sacrifices.

And since you don't have an altar for sacrifices, how are you going to get God's forgiveness for your sins? (That's a fair question)

But notice what the writer of Hebrews says, "we do have altar."

b) What's the altar?

Remember, an altar is where a sacrifice for sin is made.

Where was sacrifice for our sins made?

ON THE CROSS.

The cross is the sacrificial altar for your faith.

It's the place where Jesus' blood didn't just cover your sin, but forgave forever your sins – past, present, and future.

- c) And thus, v.10, “those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat.”
Meaning, you have no right to God’s grace if all you are about is God’s Law (His rules & rituals).

Because you are saying, Jesus’ blood wasn’t enough. You’re saying, you have to DO something to get God’s forgiveness.

- d) But grace means this:
You did all the sinning.
Jesus does all the saving.

(4) Heb. 13:11

¹¹ For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy place by the high priest as an offering for sin, are burned outside the camp.

- (a) PICTURE: In other words, when the bull was sacrificed by the priest on the altar and its blood was sprinkled on the Mercy Seat in the Holy of Holies, that bull could not be eaten by the priests. It had to be completely burned outside the walls of the temple.
- (b) In other words, God is not going to allow the partaking of His grace, if you are relying upon your works.
God is not going to allow the partaking of what He has DONE, if you are relying upon what you DO.
- (c) You don’t get into Heaven by what you DO.
You get into Heaven by what Jesus has DONE.

And notice this, not only was the bull burned outside the walls of the temple, so was Jesus.

(5) Heb. 13:12

¹² Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people through His own blood, suffered outside the gate.

- (a) Jesus wasn’t crucified inside the walls of Jerusalem. He was crucified on the outside.

His trials and scourging were on the inside, but His crucifixion was on the outside.

He was crucified on a hill called Golgotha (“the place of the skull”) located just outside the walls of Jerusalem.

- (b) Why was Jesus crucified outside the walls?
Because inside the walls makes Jesus’ blood available only to the FEW. But outside the walls makes Jesus’ blood available to ALL.

And Jesus wants ALL to be forgiven.
Jesus wants ALL to be saved.
Jesus wants ALL to get to God by His GRACE.

And that's why the writer of Hebrews says,

(6) Heb. 13:13

¹³ So, let us go out to Him outside the camp, bearing His reproach.

a) In other words, let's leave the OT system of rules & rituals, and trying to earn our way to God; and let's put all our trust in Jesus alone for salvation.

And just like Jesus was despised and rejected, you be ready to be despised and rejected.

And know this:

(7) Heb. 13:14

¹⁴ For here we do not have a lasting city, but we are seeking *the city* which is to come.

a) The city of Jerusalem is not going to be around forever.

There's only one city that will last forever, and that's the Eternal City; the New Jerusalem in Heaven.

We're not trying to stay here.

We're making our way there.

And the only way you get there is by Jesus.

D. And now we come to:

Heb. 13:15

¹⁵ Therefore by (through) Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God

What's the point?

The point is, Jesus paid a debt He did not owe, because you owed a debt you could not pay.

The point is, you did all the sinning.

Jesus did all the saving.

The point is, what can wash away my sin?

NOTHING BUT THE BLOOD OF JESUS.

The point is, God is not looking at what you DO to be saved. He's looking at what was DONE for you to be saved.

The point is, you can't work your way to God, because He's already done all the work (on the cross with His blood).

The point is,

Eph. 2:8-9

8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.

E. The points is:

Jesus gave His ALL for you, so you can have ALL His forgiveness and ALL His Heaven.

And you didn't have to do one thing to earn it.

You just had to by faith accept it.

F. And in fact, if God were to ask you when you stand before Him, "Why should I let you into my Heaven?"

The moment you answer in the first person ("I"), wrong answer.

It has nothing to do with "I"

I believe.

I accepted.

I am saved.

The only answer is...JESUS.

G. And once you get:

Jesus paid it all,

All to Him I owe;

Sin had left a crimson stain,

He washed it white as snow.

There is a fountain filled with blood

Drawn from Immanuel's veins;

And sinners, plunged beneath that flood,

Lose all their guilty stains:

You can't sit there and do not nothing.

You've got to raise some praise for Jesus.

Because without Jesus you're sunk.

But with Jesus you're saved.

And Jesus saves you not because of you.

He saves you because He loves you, and He paid the penalty of your sins for you.

And you don't deserve His forgiveness.

And you can't earn His forgiveness.

And you only get His forgiveness because of His AMAZING GRACE.

And because of Jesus ALONE, and through Jesus ALONE, can you give God PRAISE!

I praise God for GIVING His Life

2. I Praise God ALL My Life

15 Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God

- A. Praise is not a Sunday thing. It's not a Monday thing. It's not a Tuesday thing. It's an every day thing.

God wants you praising Him 24/7.

In fact, He wants you praying continually ("Pray without ceasing) and He wants you praising continually.

- B. And when you are filled with the Holy Spirit, you will be praising Him all day, every day, and throughout your day.

And praise doesn't start the moment the music starts.

Praise starts the moment you wake up

And continues until you fall asleep.

In other words, praise is a continuous thing.

- C. Paul said

Phil. 4:4

Rejoice in the Lord always. And again I say: Rejoice!

You should be praising God non-stop.

And you should be praising God all your life.

- D. And that means praising Him when the sun's shining and when it's not.

You praise Him before the storm

You praise Him in the storm.

You praise Him through the storm.

In fact, look at

Heb. 13:15

let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God

What is the "sacrifice" of praise to God?

It's an offering to God that is oftentimes costly and inconvenient.

- E. Sometimes you are not going to feel like praising God.

Sometimes you are going to experience heartaches, heartbreaks, and headaches, and you're not going to feel like praising God.

But if praising God is based on your circumstances, and you can only praise Him in the good times, you may not be praising the God of the Bible. You may be praising a god of your imagination.

In other words, your god wouldn't do this to you.

Your god wouldn't allow this to happen to you.

Your god wouldn't disappoint you.

So, you really want a god who does your thing, rather than praise a God Who does His thing.

- F. I'm not saying it's easy to praise God in the bad times. That's one of the reasons it's called a "sacrifice of praise." You don't feel like it, but you do it anyway.

Why? Because whether life is good or bad, God is worthy of praise.

God's not worthy of praise because nothing bad happens to me. God's worthy of praise EVEN WHEN bad things happen to me.

- G. God doesn't just want me to praise Him when it's convenient. He wants me to praise to Him PERIOD.

And that's why the best place you can be when you're going through the rough and tough of life is with God's people, giving praise to God.

Because you can praise your way right out of the storm.

Praise God ALL your life

3. I Praise God WITH My Life

Heb. 13:15-16

offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of *our* lips, giving thanks to His name. 16 But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

- A. What is the writer of Hebrews saying?
He's saying the fruit of our lips is "giving thanks" to God. Literally, it's "confession" – "saying the same thing" Confessing with our lips, saying the same thing God has revealed about Himself in His Word.

It's saying to God, "You're holy."

"You are worthy."

"There is no one like You."

"Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised."

"You are perfect in all your ways."

"Your ways are just and righteous."

"You are full of grace and truth."

"Your grace is greater than my sin."

"You love me with an everlasting love."

Your lips should be speaking such truth about God to God all day long.

- B. But it's not just with your lips you should be praising God. It should be with your life.

16 But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

God doesn't want lip-service. He wants life-service. And life-service means you are living for others more than you are living for yourself.

In other words, you are living and loving like Jesus.

- C. And when you are living and loving like Jesus, God is well-pleased.

Because now you are praising God with your life.

Conclusion:

This winter we have seen a ton of sickness in the Pearl family. And I have heard story after story how you served people, helped people, ministered to people, took food to people, and just loved people like Jesus.

And that is how you give great praise to God!

We should be the most praising-God people on the planet.

- Praising the life God has GIVEN us.
- Praising God ALL my life.
- And praising God WITH my life.

Let's ask God to produce a ton of fruit of praise at Pearl. And watch Him draw people to Jesus.