

“SHALL I PRAISE YOU IN THIS?”

1st Corinthians 11:22

I. GIVING PRAISE

A. To God

1. 1st Peter 2:9-10

Our purpose as Christians is to proclaim the praises of the One who saved us. His great mercy compels us to do so.

2. Acts 2:40-47

The practice of the early church was to spend their time in praise of God.

3. Hebrews 2:10-12; 13:15

If Christ can sing praises to God in the assembly, so can we. We should be unceasingly thankful.

B. To others

1. 1st Corinthians 11:1-2, 17-22

Paul could rightly praise the brethren in Corinth inasmuch as they followed in the footsteps of Christ and His apostles, but he was right to withhold praise from them when they failed. Praise should be given, but only as deserved.

2. 1st Thessalonians 2:3-5

We must refrain from unwarranted praise because the use of flattery is a pretext for ulterior motives, a tool of deception.

II. RECEIVING PRAISE

A. From God

1. Romans 2:28-29

God's praise excels men's praise. It is His approval we must seek.

2. **1st Corinthians 4:3-5**

On the final day of judgment, God will dispense praise as deserved. Whether or not we are praiseworthy in our own sight will be quite irrelevant.

3. **1st Peter 1:3-7**

Our praise won't come without the testing of fire, however. This means we must endure trials and temptations in this life first.

4. **Philippians 4:8**

If we desire God's praises, we must think about proper things.

B. From others

1. **Romans 13:3**

Good citizenship should yield praise from government. This is proper.

2. **John 12:42-43**

Nevertheless, our focus must not be on praise coming from men, but on God's praises. Men's praises can corrupt us.

3. **Luke 6:26; Matthew 5:11-12**

In fact, it is a woeful thing to be praised by all men. This remark from Jesus clearly complements the beatitude He preached in the same context, which tells us that God blesses those whom men curse.

4. **Jude 16**

Remember that flattery is used to gain advantage. We must be careful.

C. From ourselves

1. **Proverbs 27:2**

It is unwise to praise oneself.

2. **Romans 12:3**

Humility is important.