

The Good Fight

*Through Jesus, therefore,
let us continually offer up to God a sacrifice of praise -
the fruit of lips that confess His name.
Hebrews 13:15*

When we praise God, we are doing what we were created for. It is our highest honor as humans created in God's image. We have been given reason, which sets us apart from all other creatures, so that we are able to think on God, and actively glorify him as Creator. Jonathan Edwards says that "the sun, moon, and stars, and the earth and waters, and all the trees of the field, and grass and herbs, and fishes and insects do glorify God. But herein is the peculiar dignity of the nature of man, that man is capable of glorifying God as Creator, and we do so with understanding, voluntarily, which is a heavenly work."

Jonathan Edwards PRAISE, THE CHIEF EMPLOYMENT OF HEAVEN

Praise To The Lord

LEADER:

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

CONGREGATION:

*Praise the LORD with the harp;
make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre.*

LEADER:

Sing to him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy.

CONGREGATION:

*For the word of the LORD is right and true;
he is faithful in all he does.*

LEADER:

*The LORD loves righteousness and justice;
the earth is full of his unfailing love.*

CONGREGATION:

*By the word of the LORD were the heavens made,
their starry host by the breath of his mouth.
He gathers the waters of the sea into jars;
he puts the deep into storehouses.*

LEADER:

*Let all the earth fear the LORD;
let all the people of the world revere him.*

CONGREGATION:

*For he spoke, and it came to be;
he commanded, and it stood firm.*

LEADER:

*The LORD foils the plans of the nations;
he thwarts the purposes of the peoples.*

CONGREGATION:

*But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever,
the purposes of his heart through all generations.*

Psalms 33:1-11

I Sing The Mighty Power Of God

Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD : "I will sing to the LORD, for he is highly exalted. The horse and its rider he has hurled into the sea. The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him. The LORD is a warrior; the LORD is his name. Pharaoh's chariots and his army he has hurled into the sea. The best of Pharaoh's officers are drowned in the Red Sea. The deep waters have covered them; they sank to the depths like a stone. "Your right hand, O LORD, was majestic in power. Your right hand, O LORD, shattered the enemy. In the greatness of your majesty you threw down those who opposed you. You unleashed your burning anger; it consumed them like stubble. By the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up. The surging waters stood firm like a wall; the deep waters congealed in the heart of the sea. "The enemy boasted, 'I will pursue, I will overtake them. I will divide the spoils; I will gorge myself

on them. I will draw my sword and my hand will destroy them.' But you blew with your breath, and the sea covered them. They sank like lead in the mighty waters.

CONGREGATION:

"Who among the gods is like you, O LORD? Who is like you - majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?"

Exodus 15:1-11

Your Name

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, your divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness. You called us by your own glory and goodness to be your blood-bought children, and so we are. Included in what we have in you is an inexhaustible list of precious promises, which act like a magnet to draw us toward yourself and buffer us against the deceit of this world. Thank you for such grace and favor. We are deeply grateful.

We stand here before you this morning with various degrees of faith, which by your great saving power is still intact, though perhaps a bit threadbare. May we be self-satisfied, but with constant effort add to our lives goodness and knowledge and self-control and perseverance and godliness and brotherly kindness and love. May this process increasingly bring you glory, enabling us to be productive and fruitful in our knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. Help us to be pro-active in our walk, partnering with the spirit to mortify sin, and at the same time making our calling and election sure.

The Good Fight

OFFERING
Strength Of My Heart

SERMON

Wholly Yours