
The injunction to praise God

Exodus 15:2 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.

2 Samuel 22:4 I call to the LORD, who is worthy of praise, and I am saved from my enemies.

The worthiness and humility of God

Philippians 2:5 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,

⁷ but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross!

⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,

¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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Why Does God Tells Us to Praise Him?

Is He Insecure?

Is God a Moral Monster—part 1

April 8, 2018

— What is pride? —

Romans 12:3 (RSV) For by the grace given to me I bid every one among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith which God has assigned him.

1 Corinthians 4:7 (RSV) For who sees anything different in you? What have you that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if it were not a gift?

Exodus 34:6 (RSV) The LORD passed before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness,

— Worshipping God's benefits —

2 Samuel 22:31 (RSV) This God -- his way is perfect; the promise of the LORD proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him.

Deuteronomy 4:39 Acknowledge and take to heart this day that the LORD is God in heaven above and on the earth below. There is no other.

⁴⁰ *Keep his decrees and commands, which I am giving you today, so that it may go well with you and your children after you and that you may live long in the land the LORD your God gives you for all time.*

Jeremiah 2:5 This is what the LORD says: What fault did your fathers find in me, that they strayed so far from me?

■ *They followed worthless idols and became worthless themselves.* ■

Proverbs 4:23 Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.

Is there a “biology” of belief?

■ *Jeremiah 31:31 (RSV) Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah,* ■

³² *not like the covenant which I made with their fathers when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant which they broke, though I*

was their husband, says the LORD.

³³ *But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it upon their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.*

³⁴ *And no longer shall each man teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."*

Aligning ourselves with God. Getting in touch with reality.

Ecclesiastes 3:11 God has placed eternity in our hearts.

■ *Proverbs 12:11 He who works his land will have abundant food, but he who chases fantasies lacks judgment.* ■

Exodus 20:1 And God spoke all these words: ² I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. ³ You shall have no other gods before me.

⁴ *You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶ but showing love to a thousand [generations] of those who love me and keep my commandments.*
