

# Praising Who?

*“I receive not honor from men” [Jesus Christ speaking] (John 5:41).*

*“I do not accept praise from men” (John 5:41 NIV).*

The above verse from Jesus our Savior, Son of God, is shocking considering the current state of Christian practice. There are many things to know regarding proper praise, but the most important question is, **to whom** should our praise be directed?

The following twelve N.T. verses clearly pertain to **praising God**. Here is a good question that I ask only to try and bring balance to our Christian worship. Where are the corresponding verses that say “Praise Jesus?” They are not found in Scripture! Here is something you can try at home. Open your Bible concordance and look for the phrase *“praise Jesus,”* or *“praising Jesus,”* and be surprised! So why are most Christian worship services devoted to **“praising Jesus?”** Please consider:

*“And his [Zechariah’s] mouth was opened immediately, and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, and **praised God**” (Luke 1:64).*

*“And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host **praising God**, and saying, Glory to God in the highest...” (Luke 2:13-14).*

*“And the shepherds returned, glorifying and **praising God** for all the things that they had seen...” (Luke 2:20).*

*“And immediately he received his sight, and followed him **glorifying God:** and all the people, when they saw it, gave **praise unto God**” (Luke 18:43). Note: They were **praising God** in the presence of Jesus.*

*“...the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and **praise God** with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen; Saying...**glory in the highest**” (Luke 19:37-38). Again, **praising God** in the presence of Jesus.*

*“[The disciples] were continually in the temple, **praising and blessing God**” (Luke 24:53).*

*“Then again called they the man that was blind, and said unto him, **Give God the praise**” (John 9:24).*

*“And they [the Apostles], continuing daily with one accord in the temple...**Praising God**” (Acts 2:46-47).*

*“And he [the lame man] leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking and leaping, and **praising God**” (Acts 3:8).*

*“And all the people saw him walking and **praising God**” (Acts 3:9).*

*“**By him** [Jesus] therefore let us offer the sacrifice of **praise to God**”*

*continually...giving thanks to **his** name” (Hebrews 13:15).*

*“And a voice came out of the throne, saying, **Praise our God**, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great...Alleluia: for the **Lord God** omnipotent reigneth” (Rev. 19:5-6).*

The following verses from Paul, written to two gentile churches, tell us what he believed should be the content of a true Christian worship service.

*“Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, **Always giving thanks to God the Father for everything**, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Eph. 5:19-20 NIV).*

*“Let the words of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts **to God**. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, **giving thanks to God the Father** through him” (Col. 3:16-17).*

Yes, our Lord Jesus Christ receives high praise in Revelation chapter five, but the verses picture a scene in **heaven**, not a Christian worship service. And yes, Hebrews 1:6 says, “*And let all the angels of **God** worship him [Jesus].*” However, we are not angels but men! There is not one verse in the Bible that commands anyone, angels or men, to worship Jesus **as God!**

## **The stones would cry out**

It is believed by some, that at the time when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a colt in what is called his “*triumphal entry*,” he said to those who asked him to rebuke his disciples for their emotional display, if they do not **praise me** “*the stones would immediately cry out.*” However, a closer look at the accounts of this event, given by all four Gospel writers, proves that this is not the case.

Consider Luke’s account:

*“And when he was come nigh, even now at the descent of the mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and **praise God** [not Jesus] with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen; Saying, Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in **heaven**, and **glory in the highest**” (Luke 19:37-38).*

The word “*Blessed*” in the above verse is the Greek word “*eulogeo*” (Strong’s #2127) and its primary meaning is “*to speak well of, i.e. to bless (thank or **invoke a benediction upon**, prosper).*”

It can also mean “*praise*” but its meaning is determined by the context of the usage. Look at the word “*Hosanna*,” used by the other three Gospel writers in their accounts (Matt. 21:9, 15; Mark 11:9, 10; John 12:13). This is a Hebrew word meaning, “*Save, we pray*” (Cruden’s) or “*Oh Save!*” (Strong’s #5614). It is similar to the modern expression, “*God save the king (or queen)!*”

So we conclude that, although there was a degree of honoring Jesus, as there rightly should be, primarily the disciples were praising God and invoking His blessings upon their Messiah, Jesus.

Look again at Luke’s words: “*The disciples began to rejoice and **praise God**...Blessed be the King*

*that cometh...**peace in heaven and glory in the highest**" (19:37-38).*

Now, compare the words of these disciples to those of the heavenly host when Jesus as a baby lay in Bethlehem's manger:

*"...the heavenly host **praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest**"*  
*(Luke 2:13-14).*

Please study again the words of Jesus to them (and us) as recorded in John 5:41.

*"I do not accept praise from men" (NIV).*

*I don't accept praise from humans" (God's Word Translation).*

*I do not need the praise of men" (Phillip's Modern Translation).* Note: Our Lord Jesus desired only the praise of God his Father (see John 5:44; 12:43; I Cor. 4:5).

Finally, let's all **praise God** and thank Him for sending Jesus; our supernaturally conceived, virgin-born, sinless, Savior, redeemer, Messiah and soon coming king!

*"Giving thanks **always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ**" (Eph. 5:20).*

*"Every **good gift and every perfect gift** is from above, and cometh down from **the Father...**" (James 1:17).*