

EXALTING CHRIST

I Timothy 1:17

By examining one of Paul's doxologies we can learn much about exalting Christ.

I. THE SITUATION (12-16)

- Praising God through Christ

A. PAUL'S PARTICULARS

- Christ and God are exalted because ...

1. Christ put him into service (12-13)
2. By grace, Christ saved the foremost sinner (14-15)
3. Paul found mercy which demonstrates God's patience to others (16)

B. PAUL'S HABIT

1. Coupling praise for God with Christ's work
2. See Romans 16:27; Galatians 1:3-5 and Ephesians 3:20-21

C. PAUL'S NATURE

1. He never got over what God did for him in Christ Jesus
2. If we neglect or fail to reflect upon what Christ has done for us, we won't exalt God or Christ

II. THE RECOGNITION (17a)

- Remembering God's attributes

A. GOD'S POSITION

1. The King of the ages [the King eternal]
 - There has never been a time when God has not been king! (Note Psalm 145:13)
2. The Sovereign Ruler - See I Tim. 6:15
 - He is the only sovereign over all powers human (kings) and divine (lords).

B. GOD'S IMMUTABILITY (immortal)

- The word "immortal" is a poor translation

1. Unchangeable: He is absolutely consistent
2. Inexhaustible: He never tires or grows weary - See Psalm 121:4
3. Imperishable: He is not given to decay or weakness

C. GOD'S RADIANCE (invisible)

1. A blinding glory that no human eye can see - See Ex. 24:15-17, 34:29-35 and I Kings 8:11
2. He dwells in inapproachable light - I Tim. 6:15
3. The unseen was manifested in Christ - Col. 1:15

Over please >

D. GOD'S UNIQUENESS (only God)

1. Not the "only wise God" which has little early manuscript support
2. No competitors
3. No comparable one ... there is no other who can be legitimately compared to Him
4. He cannot be duplicated or replaced
5. No one else can legitimately have the name "God"

III. THE OBLIGATION (16b)

- Honor and glorify God

A. PERSONALLY: Be honoring God

1. Acknowledge Him: He is precious (valuable) and in fact priceless
2. Respect Him: He outranks all others
3. Assign status to Him
4. Hold Him in the highest regard
5. Defer to Him

B. PUBLICALLY: Be glorifying God

1. Recognize His majesty
 - a. Bowing before Him in adoration - Note Matt. 2:11
 - b. Being on bended knee humbles us and exalts Him
2. Praise His ministry - See Eph. 1:6, 12, 14
 - "to the praise of His glory"
3. Enhance His reputation
 - a. "When we have found God good we must not forget to pronounce Him great" (Matthew Henry)
 - b. Make God shine!
 - c. See Psalm 66:2, Matt. 5:16 and I Cor. 10:31

C. PERSISTENTLY: Honor and glorify Him forever and ever

1. We never stop
2. We literally are to do this "unto the ages"
3. A perpetual and eternal obligation
4. See Rev. 4:8-11; 5:11-14 and 7:11-12

CONCLUSION:

The work of Christ will lead us to the worship of God

We exalt Christ when we praise God for Christ's work

- What grateful expressions do we offer?
- What worship do we bestow?
- Will we exalt Christ in this church?