

The Study

"We will not hide them from their descendants; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done."

Psalm 78:4 (NIV)

Why we praise the Lord

David (the one holding the pen when the Psalm above was written) knows full well the extent of the Lord's "praiseworthy deeds". His life depended on the Lord's care and guidance – a model for all human kind. We, too, have much for which to praise the Lord. Three basic categories can direct our praise:

- HE CREATED US The giver of life (Genesis 1:27-28)
- HE REDEEMED US The provider for New Life (2 Corinthians 5:19-21)
- HE EMPOWERED US The victory sustained through life's challenges (John 14:17-18; 16:5-15)

How we praise Him is found in the Key of "G".

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G	(Romans 5:21)	

How might grace reign through the life of the one who lives for Christ Jesus?

G	(Colossians 3:16)

In the passage above, what allows us to sing with gratitude in our heart?

What does that look like in your daily life?

G _____ (2 Corinthians 8:1-5)

What did generosity look like in the churches at Macedonia?

What was the first thing the people in Macedonia did before they participated in God's great plan of generosity?

G ______ (Psalm 119:36; Proverbs 18:1)

When you surrender to the Lord what are we doing according to the passages above?

And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. ² In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. ³ For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, ⁴ they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. ⁵ And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us. **Phil. 2:2-4 (NIV)**