



# Ye Servants of God

As “servants of God,” we are given a number of tasks. This hymn focuses our attention on one: to “publish abroad His wonderful name.” Because we are committed to serving God, we are to “proclaim” the salvation available through Jesus without ceasing. As we sing, we are offered both the words to use in our proclamations and an implicit challenge to carry those words beyond their worshipful setting.

Each stanza outlines our reasons for worshipping God in grandiose, majestic images. God is the one “who sits on the throne,” to whom we attribute “all glory and power, all wisdom and might.” The angels even find praising God such an awesome experience that they “fall down on their faces.” These “glorious” pictures of God remind us of the miraculous, awe-inspiring nature of the work of God in our world. The chorus, however, brings us back to something more basic, more instinctive. The repetition of the single, simple word allows us to worship from our hearts. With each “hallelujah” we are reminded that we are a part of a community of praiseful servants; our local congregations are connected to “the great congregation” as we meditate collectively on the rich simplicity of God’s love.

In our space of worship, this is the appropriate way to praise God, with lofty metaphors and sincere refrains. But as we leave and go into our daily routines, the charge to “publish abroad His wonderful name” takes on a more earthly quality. We join together to sing our hallelujahs, but when we part we must not let the hallelujahs substitute for action. Instead, the spirit of “thanks never-ceasing” that inspires our Sabbath praises must fuel our actions. We should work to live in a way that makes evident God’s “presence” in our hearts. We are to offer the same “infinite love” that God gives us to every person we meet. By transforming our worship into action, our entire lives, not just our voices, proclaim “the name all victorious of Jesus.”

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