Breathe #1 “Praise the LORD!” Psalm 150

**INTRO**: Breathe Bumper… Our Word for 2017 is ***Breathe***

 A Key Bible Word and a Word that speaks to this season in the life of our church – ***Breathe***.

* **Rest** – Not cease activity…. Reach neighbors, gather and grow together, serve Lord; but do a little less “extra stuff” and limit change. We have put a lot of ***stress on the Flock*** the past ten years (2006-2016… 70% of months = construction!)
* **Reflect** – *Take a Breath* = ***Gain perspective***… God has moved! He has been Faithful to Us. Slow Down and Give Him Thanks!

**ILL** – Pearl with gifts… so many, no time to enjoy or *thank you*

* **Refocus** – Slow down and Listen… minister to the Lord and seek His leadership for our future together.

***Breathe*** = Reflect on His Blessings and Praise His Name

Rest from the Extra Stress of Change

Refocus as we move forward together on Mission

**t/s** – Next three Sunday mornings, Key Bible Texts that use the language of Breathe/Breath; Fill & Focus our Hearts & Minds

**Psalm 150**

Climax of psalter… Psalm 1 (6 short verses)– ***Obedience***

Psalm 150 (six short verses) – ***Praise***

Psalms begins with God blessing man; ends with man blessing God!

The end of revelation truth is not obedience but Praise!

**Read in Full**

**We Breathe to Praise Him.**

***What*** Praise the LORD! ***Praise*** (13 times) longest gap…four words

Praise = Boast… Brag on LORD… His Fame. (intensive form)

 Reference to holiness and power

***Where*** Congregation gathered in the Temple (Sanctuary – Holy Place)

 Gathering above in God’s Throne Room – Saints & Angels

* Solomon dedicated Temple; yet looked above!

We join those before us and all the host of angels!!!

**Revelation 5: 13** – Every created thing in heaven and on earth, gathered in Worship, “Praise to Him Who sits on the Throne and to the Lamb that was slain! Glory, Honor and Praise!”

*O that with yonder sacred throng we at His feet may fall!*

 *We’ll join the everlasting song and crown Him Lord of All!*

***Why*** **Vs. 2** – ***His mighty deeds and excellent greatness***

1. Work of Creation and Salvation
2. Character – sovereign, holy, love, grace, Justice, all knowing, all powerful, unchanging, good, …

***To praise Him we must know Him***! (study, meditate)

 Deeper knowledge will produce higher Praise

*“…proportional praise, great praise for a great God doing great things; and high praise for a high God doing high things*.” Samuel Fairclough

**Jesus and Cross** – GOSPEL

**ILL –** Charlie Graves… singing loudly… Heart of praise!

 **APP –** Do you Know the Lord? Do you Praise the Lord?

***How*** Trumpets sound loud and long to call us to Praise.

Strings add warmth, tamborine beats out the time, pipes add body to the whole, cymbals crashing… ***People sing***!

***The Voices are the climax***… the People singing praise

Hands and feet aiding mouths and lungs

**Preparation Variety Participation**

**t/s**Where; Everywhere, Why; All that He does and is, How; everything

***Who*** Everyone. **Let All Breath Praise the LORD**! (vs. 6)

 Breath sounds an echo from the Creation story in Genesis.

 **Gen. 2:7** – Tell the Story…

*Then the LORD formed man of the dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living soul.*

**We Breathe to Praise the LORD.** Praise is our Created Purpose. God gives us breath so that we might give it back to Him as Praise! **We Breathe to Praise the LORD!**

We Praise the LORD because He is Worthy; and we are ABLE.

**ILL** – Our second grandson will be born tomorrow. George

 **Isaiah 61:3** – *Mantle of Praise; oak of Righteousness; the*

 *Planting of the LORD who glorifies His Name.*

 In the morning, the Lord will give George Breath. (a miracle)

 (***Greater Grace***)… One day, George will give I back as Praise!

You Breathe to Praise the LORD. I Breathe to Praise the LORD.

We Breathe to Praise the LORD.

**Inv.** – Bow; Prayer; Invitation – Stand and Praise… Stand and Come!