



International Bible Lesson
Uniform Sunday School Lessons Series
L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

Thinking Further

The Righteous and Upright Praise God

January 1, 2017

Psalms 33:1-9

“The LORD loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his unfailing love” (Psalms 33:5).

The psalmist invites those who are righteous and upright to rejoice and praise the LORD (Psalms 33:1). Righteous and upright people love what God loves, and the Bible teaches that God loves righteousness and justice. Because they love what God loves, believers strive to promote righteousness and justice in accordance with the law of love as revealed in the Bible and by Jesus Christ. Philosophers call the law of love “the moral law.” Righteous and upright leaders sometimes call the law of love “sound ethics;” by word and example, they encourage right and just behavior. After God created people, God revealed the laws by which people could make the most out of their minds and bodies in a proper relationship with God, others, and within themselves. When people live in accordance with the way God designed them to live, they practice and promote righteousness and justice. When we consider our surroundings, we witness much unrighteousness and injustice, and we can be tempted to think that there are benefits to living in unrighteous and unjust ways, but experience shows this is shortsighted thinking. As well as the Bible, almost every mystery novel, movie, or news report shows the sad truth that crime does not pay in the long run. We cannot know all the reasons behind every immoral action of others or ourselves, but God has spoken clearly in the Bible and has revealed why our world is as it is today. More than this, despite what we see and experience today, believers in the Bible know that the world is full of God’s unfailing love, and someday God will establish righteousness and justice throughout the earth.

1. What does it mean to you to praise God?
2. What type of people should praise God?
3. What facts does the Psalm reveal about the word of God?
4. What facts does the Psalm reveal about God’s character?
5. What does the Psalm say about God’s love and what God loves?

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