



Key Point: All praise and thankfulness go to God.

Key Text: Psalms 96:11-12a, 150:6

[Do your typical introduction.]

We are so glad all of you are here tonight! We are starting a new series called “Hymnology.” If you look at Psalms, many of the Psalms are written like poems and sung for giving praise or prayer to God. So, in this series, we are looking at some of the classic hymns most of us may know and sing and see the writers’ inspiration for writing their hymns while also looking at how the hymns are scripturally supported. Tonight, we are looking at a beautiful classic. It’s called Doxology.

[I used a personal story of Doxology to intro this hymn.]

Some hymns are cool to hear modernized, but this one just sounds best and most beautiful when it’s sung acapella. Now, this hymn specifically is special to me. My grandma’s church sings Doxology somewhere in the beginning of their service and then as everything is concluding right before people leave, they sing it again. So growing up, I’ve sung this song countless times. Every time I sing this song I think of my Grandma’s church and different things I’ve been a part of there. And now, it’s cool to get the opportunity to read into the history of this hymn and look at some Scripture and see how we can apply the truths from this hymn into our lives today and this week.

[This is the history of Thomas Ken.]

The writer of Doxology is Thomas Ken. He is no longer alive. It was written and officially published in 1708. This is a 300-year-old hymn has been sung by many congregations regularly for a lot of years.

Thomas Ken was orphaned as a kid and ended up being raised by his older sister and her husband. After he graduated college he became a pastor for close to 30 years. He was imprisoned in 1687 for not signing the Declaration of Indulgence. Basically, this was to gain religious freedom, so King James II could basically take over the religious world in England with His own beliefs. Thomas Ken stood up against him and ended up going to

prison because of it. He ended up being released and still faithfully served God until his death. He penned this hymn with the purpose of devotion and discipline in singing this in the morning and evening to God. So, it was to be a personal prayer between the singer and God.

Now, it is something that is sung together by many people with much power. Originally, the hymn's name was known by the first line, "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow." Now, the name is Doxology which means: a liturgical form of praise to God. Doxology is a way we praise God together and it's cool because that's the name of the hymn itself. With all the build up and explaining of this hymn, let's get into some of the Scripture that this hymn is based out of and then take it apart line by line.

Psalm 96:11-12a (NLT)

Let the heavens be glad, and the earth rejoice!

Let the sea and everything in it shout his praise!

¹² Let the fields and their crops burst out with joy!

Psalm 150:6 (NLT)

Let everything that breathes sing praises to the Lord!

Praise the Lord!

If you had to guess what the theme is in this Scripture, what would you say it is? It's all of creation giving praise to God the Father. I know that may sound strange and when you think about it seems weird. Like, how can a dog give praise to God? I'm not sure, but the important thing to know and think about is God literally created everything. He created the heavens and the Earth, angels, everything in the Earth, and all the galaxies and stars in the universe. Before we screwed creation up, He saw that creation was good and very good. Now, after we messed it all up, He could have gotten rid of everything, but instead God seeks for His creation to partner with Him out of hopes of bringing what once was very good back in the garden of Eden, to us now. One day, we will be in paradise, but for now, we should seek that here for Earth. Now, because God gives us life and purpose, we should sing praises to God. Let the heavens and Earth and everything in it rejoice for God our King and all He has done for us. Praise the Lord. That is what this hymn is about. I want to take this hymn line by line and go through what everything means in praising God.

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow.

I love how every line starts with praise. It's like it's a command for us obey. It should be, right? If we are following Jesus, shouldn't we be giving Him constant praise? This line points towards God being the source of our blessings. Like a river flowing, so do the blessings that God gives us. If you've heard the word blessing, do you really know what it means? It means God's favor and protection. So, when we are singing this line, it's saying praise God from Whom all good favor and protection flow.

Read Ephesians 1:3 (NLT)

"All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ."

We have every Spiritual blessing through Jesus Christ so we should give God constant praise for forgiving us of our sins and give Him all glory and honor because He didn't have to pursue us the way He has. It's cool because the blessing definition pretty much comes from 2 Corinthians 1:3.

Read 2 Corinthians 1:3 (NLT)

All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort.

So, all praise goes to God because even in our suffering and difficult times, God still helps us find comfort and joy. Do you look at God as the source of all your blessings? Do you need to give Him more praise for being the source of all your blessings? Here's something I find cool: we get our word blessing from the Old English word Bledsian which means to "consecrate with blood." Does anyone find significance in that? Hopefully you do. When Jesus died on the cross, He gave us the ultimate blessing by saving us for eternity with His shed blood. So, praise God from Whom all blessings flow.

Praise Him all creatures here below.

Now, this line speaks on all of creation giving praise to God. Why? Let's take a look.

Psalm 104:24-30 (NLT)

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