

GOD IS WORTHY TO BE PRAISED

I PETER 1:3

BACKGROUND: The word blessed (NASV) means praise or worthy to be praised. (See Zodhiates, p. 679.) This lesson gives three reasons why God is worthy to be praised, but there are really four in this verse.

FOR HIS GREAT MERCY. If you are truly honest with yourself, you know that before your salvation, you were a pathetic sinner. God's great mercy for you becomes real to you when you own the depths of your former depravity. His mercy saved you from your depravity by nailing your sin to the cross and giving you His righteousness and His eternal life. (**I Peter 1:3, I Peter 2:9-10, James 2:13, fn 2:13, Romans 9:16, fn 9:16, Matthew 6:14-15, fn 6:14-15**) *How could understanding the great mercy you received at your salvation help the way you live today?*

FOR YOUR BEING BORN AGAIN. When you, by faith, trusted Jesus Christ as your Savior, He exchanged your old sinful life for His life. This one-time event is called being born again and it is the beginning of your Christian life. (**I Peter 1:3, fn 1:3, I Peter 1:22-23, John 3:5-6, fn 3:5-6, II Corinthians 5:17, fn 5:17, II Corinthians 5:21, fn 5:21, II Corinthians 5:1-5, fn 5:5**) *How could you know daily that you have been born again?*

FOR YOUR LIVING HOPE. Your focus not is not only on your past experience of being born again, but on the present and future reality of a living hope based on the resurrection of Jesus Christ. (**I Peter 1:3, Romans 8:23-25, fn 8:24-25[1st], fn 8:24-25[2nd], Colossians 1:26-27, fn 1:26-27, I Corinthians 15:12-22, fn 15:13-18, fn 15:20**) *Why is God worthy to be praised? What is the fourth reason He is worthy of our praise and why is it the most important?*

Are you taking time to experience the presence of the Holy Spirit with the Living Word teaching you and giving you His joy, His love, and His peace?

