

QUESTION:

I’d like to understand—when we say “Praise the Lord Jesus,” what exactly do we mean? Who should say this greeting, and why do some people say “Shalom” instead?

ANSWER:

The phrase “Praise the Lord Jesus” is a declaration that Jesus is worthy of praise because of the good work He accomplished here on earth.

Jesus is the only person who willingly gave up His heavenly glory and authority to come live on earth for one purpose: to redeem us from our sins. He suffered greatly, was tempted, died, and then rose again. Now He lives and sits at the right hand of God as our mediator (1 Timothy 2:5, Hebrews 7:25).

Through Him, we receive forgiveness of sins, healing of diseases, victory over Satan, blessings, and direct access to God without any barriers—through His blood (Hebrews 10:19-22).

Someone like this absolutely deserves to be praised. That’s why “Praise the Lord Jesus” is an eternal greeting, expressing

gratitude for the light and salvation we have received through His good work.

Who Should Say It?

No one is forbidden from saying it, but if a person says “Praise the Lord Jesus” without understanding why Jesus deserves praise, it becomes hypocritical—and God hates hypocrisy (Matthew 23:28).

For example, if someone is not yet saved and says “Praise the Lord Jesus,” they should ask themselves: Praise Him for what, since He hasn’t done anything in their life yet?

It would be like a lost person saying, “Praise Satan”—what would they have to praise Satan for if they have no relationship with him? (Though a traditional healer might say it sincerely because they believe they gain something from Satan.)

This greeting or declaration is most appropriate in worship settings—such as sermons, teachings, songs, prayers, and so on—because that is where Jesus’ work is most clearly demonstrated.

On the other hand, “Shalom” is a Hebrew word meaning “peace.” Anyone can use this word, whether saved or not, because it is more of a general greeting than a statement of faith. It’s similar to how we say “How are you?”—anyone can say it.

But “Praise the Lord Jesus” is a faith-based phrase that should be spoken only by those who have put their trust in Jesus.

May the Lord bless you.

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