

Series: Annual Theme Message
Title: Exalt: Vertical and Horizontal
Text: Psalms 57:9
Date: Jan 7, 2024

Introduction

On Mission

“A mission statement is not something you write overnight... But fundamentally, your mission statement becomes your constitution, the solid expression of your vision and values. It becomes the criterion by which you measure everything else in your life.”

– Stephen Covey

ROCK OF HOPE CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

As the Church we live our lives to **exalt** the person of Jesus Christ in all we think, say and do and invite all people to do the same. We find ways to **embrace** people where they are and continue to love them through their journey with Christ. We **enjoy** our walk with God and our walk with one another. We intentionally **engage** with our community and the world to have a voice in the market conversations of our times. We strive to be **equipped** in order to accomplish the work set before us as ambassadors of Jesus Christ and His kingdom.

EXALT: Vertical and Horizontal

As the Church we live our lives to **exalt** the person of Jesus Christ in all we think, say and do and invite all people to do the same.

- To Lift up Jesus – focus our lives on Him
 - Vertical Focus
 - Vertical Faith
 - Vertical Praise
 - In our lives with what we think, say, and do
- To Lift up Jesus to others – point others to Him
 - Horizontal -

Psalm 57:9

I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples; I will sing praises to you among the nations.

To acknowledge and to make known the supremacy of the King is our highest calling.

EXALT, definition

verb: Hold (someone or something) in very high regard; think or speak very highly of.

EXULT, definition (ex·ult / ig'zəlt)

verb: Show or feel elation or jubilation, especially as the result of a success.

To lift on high...to hold in the highest

We lift up players and coaches and movie stars and politicians – exalting them, exulting in them.

Yet where is our ever present and constant exaltation of the Most high!!!

IT IS PERSONAL: PRAISE IN PRIVATE

Psalm 57:9 – *I will give thanks to you, O Lord ...*

Psalm 69:30

I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving.

We exalt Him with every endeavor of our lives.

- “To You O Lord be the glory and the honor and the praise!”
- Endeavor – our attempts... successes and failures
- We exalt through prayer, song, the arts, stewardship and study.
- Personal preparation and intimacy with God

IT IS PUBLIC: PRAISE WITH THE PEOPLE

Psalm 57 – *I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples...*

Among the people

- The people of God
- In the gathering place

Psalm 107:32

Let them exalt him in the assembly of the people and praise him in the council of the elders.

We exalt Him in every gathering

- Large group, small group, family friends, work, in the church and in the world

IT IS PUBLIC: PRAISE PROCLAIMED TO THE WORLD

Psalm 57:9 –

I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples; I will sing praises to you among the nations.

Among the Nations

- In the world
- Among the Gentiles
- In the marketplace

Psalm 96:3-10

³ *Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!* ⁴ *For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods.* ⁵ *For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the Lord made the heavens.*

⁶ *Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.* ⁷ *Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength!* ⁸ *Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts!*

⁹ *Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth!* ¹⁰ *Say among the nations, "The Lord reigns! Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity."*

- We exalt Him **before** / Among the nations
 - A world in need of a message
 - A world in need of a witness
 - The Lord Reigns

Challenge

I will strive to speak out more praise to God on a daily basis as an act of personal worship.

I will strive to lift up the Sovereignty of Jesus to the people of the Church as an encouragement to the Body.

I will strive to testify of the Goodness of God to those in my life and community as an active witness to His Love.