

The Doxology

Written by Philip Slusher

Romans 11:36 - "For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen."

From a very early age, the *Doxology* has been one of my favorite hymns. In fact, it was one of the first church songs I memorized. Even today, its familiar words continue to help me express praise and gratitude to our God:

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

The word *doxology* comes from two Greek words: *doxa*, meaning glory or honor, and *logos*, meaning word or utterance. Simply put, a doxology is a word of glory—a brief expression of praise to God.

The familiar lyrics were written in the late 1600s by Thomas Ken, an Anglican bishop and chaplain. He originally composed three hymns for the daily devotions of students at Winchester College in England: one for morning, one for evening, and one for midnight. He encouraged the students to sing the final stanza of each hymn, a short Trinitarian expression of praise that we know today as the Doxology.

The melody we associate with these words is known as *Old Hundredth*. Composed in the sixteenth century by Louis Bourgeois, it was associated with the Genevan Psalter. Over time, this historic melody and Ken's words came together to form the beloved hymn that continues to unite believers in praise.

Though the Doxology is brief, its words express profound biblical truths. James 1:17 reminds us that "every good gift and every perfect gift is from above," coming from our unchanging heavenly Father. Romans 11:36 declares that all things are from Him, through Him, and to Him. And Psalm 148 calls all creation—from the heavens to the earth—to praise the Lord.

The Doxology reminds us that praise is more than something we sing; it is a response to who God is and all He has done.

It is easy to offer praise when life is going well and blessings are evident. But the rhythm of praise is meant to shape every season of our lives. In times of joy, we praise God for His goodness. In times of uncertainty, we praise Him for His faithfulness. Even in seasons of grief, we can praise Him because His character never changes and His promises remain sure.

The words also remind us that our praise belongs to the triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Our worship is not simply a response to the blessings we receive; it is a response to the God who has revealed Himself to us and brought us salvation through Jesus Christ.



The Doxology has endured for centuries because its message never grows old. Every blessing points us back to the Giver. Every breath is an opportunity to honor our Creator. And every season of life gives us another reason to declare His glory.

As you listen to this familiar hymn, let its words become more than a melody you recognize. Let them be the expression of a heart that recognizes God's goodness and responds with gratitude.

May praise become the rhythm of our lives—not just the song on our lips, but the posture of our hearts.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!