

Indio Informer

Vol. 29 No. 10

March 11, 2018

Upcoming Events...

Galatians Class: Every Thursday at 1:00 p.m.

Business Meeting: Today, March 11 at 4:30 p.m.

Ladies Bible Class: March 18

Barnabas Group Meeting: March 27

Being Thankful...Simple

"Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it." - William Arthur Ward -

"I'm thankful for a pair of shoes that feel really good on my feet; I like my shoes. I'm thankful for the birds; I feel like they're singing just for me when I get up in the morning... Saying, 'Good morning, John. You made it, John.' I'm thankful for the sea breeze that feels so good right now, and the scent of jasmine when the sun starts going down. I'm thankful..." - Johnny Cash -

March Birthdays

4 Joseph McKnight 8 Drina Zamarripa

9 Jessica Aguiar 18 Buddy Cashion 30 Barrett Hoffman

March Anniversaries

6 Harold & Dortha Gentry

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.

Sunday.....10:45 a.m.

Sunday.....6:00 p.m.

Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Preacher:
Mike McKnight

Church of Christ

81-377 Ave 46
Indio, CA 92201
(760) 342-1859

(Address Service Requested)

A Psalm of Thanksgiving

By Dan Jenkins

The book of Psalms is remarkable in so many ways. Many of the psalms come from the heart of a shepherd boy of Bethlehem and give us great insight into the very soul of a man after God's own heart.

One of the psalms repeats a phrase over and over. The psalmist said, *"Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men"* (Psa. 107:1, 8, 15, 21, 31). This phrase makes a natural division of five situations in this psalm where men should be filled with thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving for redemption. The first section (vss. 1-7) describes the times when God brought Israel from adversity and returned them to the land He promised Abraham's descendants. While it is true the sin of God's people often was the reason they were scattered, the psalm shows just how merciful God is toward His children. Those who were redeemed from the nations could so readily sing this psalm of thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving for souls which have been refreshed. In this section, the psalmist looks at the souls which have been brought low by the adversity around them. Their hearts are filled with darkness which is the result of ignoring God. They are bound up in affliction. Yet, when they cried out to God, He heard them. Their souls were filled with the blessing He gave to them. Their lives turned into joy because His mercy gave them what had been missing. The psalmist said, *"Give thanks to the Lord for His wonderful works."*

Thanksgiving for deliverance to those who were at the gates of death. This third section (vss. 15-20) parallels thoughts found in the previous section of those who were surrounded by distress.

They were so burdened they could not even eat, yet when they cried out to the Lord, He heard them and saved them out of all their afflictions. *“Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness.”*

Thanksgiving from those who were tossed in the seas. The psalmist turns his attention to those who sailed the seas and found themselves surrounded by tempestuous waves. As the waves lifted them to the heavens and then dropped them in the depths of the troughs, hope could so easily be lost. At their wit’s end, they cried out to God, and He heard them, calmed the storms and brought them to safe havens.

Thanksgiving from those who assemble to worship in the company of the elders. The mercy of God is shown in the fruitful seasons where He waters the wilderness and feeds His people. Their crops increase and their herds multiply. He exalts the poor. Oh, that men would give thanks for all He does.

Thanksgiving from our hearts. The imagery in this psalm is different from what is around us, but the lesson is so obvious. God help us to give thanksgiving for all He does!

Giving Thanks in Song

By Kevin Cauley

Hebrews 13:15 *“By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.”*

The older I get, the more I appreciate the simple act of thanksgiving. No other verbal act has the power of a timely and appropriate word of thanks. It is an act that can move us to the highest realms of praise and at the same time an act that can bring us to the lowest depths of humility. It is an act that helps us appreciate what we have and an act that helps us recognize the want of others. It is an act that can convict us of the tiniest hypocrisy and an act that can bring us massive amounts of joy and contentment. It is an act that spits in the face of Satan and an act that embraces the wonders of God.

There are many ways in which we can be thankful. Let us consider in this brief study being thankful in our singing. Out of all of the acts of worship, in a lot of ways, singing can be the most emotionally satisfying. God certainly knew what He was doing

when he incorporated singing into His worship. One may experience great sadness while singing or one may ride soaring waves of joy. Given the great range of emotion possible in song and the great range of attitudes engendered through thankfulness, singing is the perfect act of worship to couple with the attitude of thankfulness.

We have some great songs of thanksgiving in our hymnals. The song “For the Beauty of the Earth” is a song of thanksgiving. It poetically states in the chorus, “Lord of all to thee we raise, this our sacrifice of praise.” The sacrifice of praise as recorded in Hebrews 13:15 is thankfulness.

“Count your blessings” is another song of thankfulness. It is very difficult to look at all of the blessings that surround us on a daily basis and not be thankful. Naming those blessings one by one calls us to thankfulness for each and every one. It moves us to consider the magnitude of detail for which we may be thankful.

A more recent song of thankfulness simply states: “Thank you Lord for loving me / and thank you Lord for blessing me. / Thank you Lord for making me whole / and saving my soul. / Thank you Lord for loving me. / Thank you Lord for saving my soul.” These very simple lyrics could not be more profound for they convey in few words the essence of what thankfulness entails: the expression of the creature’s total and complete dependence upon the Creator.

And we need to cultivate this attitude of thankfulness as we sing praises to God whether we are saying the words “Thank you” or not. One may experience the thankful attitude—the attitude of realizing our dependence upon God—in every song we sing. Whether we sing “Praise Him, Praise Him,” “Kneel at the cross,” “Whate’er You Do in Word or Deed” or “‘Tis Midnight and On Olive’s Brow” we are acknowledging dependence upon God. One cannot truly realize this dependence and not offer a word of thanksgiving.

The individual Christian does not have it within his capacity to solve the problems of the nearly seven billion people who live on the earth. Some are dying even as we consider these words. Where we can act, we must, but what can we do beyond our ability to assuage the guilt and pain of those suffering both physically and spiritually? Brethren, let us be thankful (Colossians 3:15).