

Upcoming Events

Meet Up Open Bible Study:

For study subject and location: see church website

Being Thankful

“Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courtyards with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name”. Psalms 100:4

“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His faithfulness is everlasting.” 1 Chronicles 16:34

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.”

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

November Birthdays

2 Mike Atkins 6 Ashley Tanner
10 Daniel Brown 27 Lupita Guzman

November Anniversaries

2 Shannon & Susan Hudson

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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”* (Psalms 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

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Sunday.....6:00 p.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Preacher:
(Vacant)

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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!

Thanksgiving

From Mountain View church of Christ, GA

Throughout the Bible, we see *thanksgiving* for blessings as a theme. The Old Testament resounds with the people praising God; Israel had a history of giving thanks to God for the mercy and deliverance he showed them. In the New Testament we read, Jesus “*Then he took the five loaves and the two fish and looking up*

to heaven he gave thanks and broke them” (Luke 9:16). At the Last Supper Jesus took bread and gave thanks and offered it to His followers (1 Corinthians 11:24). Jesus always prayed before meals.

With the holiday approaching, let’s consider some thoughts for thanksgiving.

Motive. When we give thanks to God, our sole motive should be *pure gratitude*. Thanksgiving is giving thanks and that alone. Of all our types of prayers, a thanksgiving prayer is the least likely to be polluted or corrupted with selfish thoughts or a subconscious appeal to manipulate God. It is about God’s blessings toward us and our appreciation of those blessings.

Knowledgeable. Being grateful requires us to look back into the past, whether times recent or years past, and acknowledging blessings for which we are thankful. Our culture is infatuated with the future and the result is that thanksgiving is sometimes neglected. But to give thanks to God is to look backwards, not forwards, and to express gratitude for the good things that have come our way.

Comprehensive. On the U.S. holiday, we thank God for the meal. Sometimes we include more in our prayers. We should, because we are so blessed. God is to be thanked for our family, friends, housing, jobs, and possibly hundreds of other minor things. Giving God thanks should be a theme running through our lives in times good and bad. The Pilgrims lived close enough to the soil to know how dependent they were on God's providence. In bitter winters with scarce food, they learned to thank God for all they had. And they were eager to thank Him during times of abundant blessing, too.

As Thanksgiving Day approaches, ponder and consider the many blessings you enjoy. Be grateful for these wonderful benefits and thank God for them.