

‘GIVE THANKS UNTO THE LORD’
Psalm 92:1-5

INTRODUCTION:

A. The subject for this message is taken from verse 1 of our text – David said it is Good to give Thanks to God. It is good in the sense that the Lord deserves such gratitude and it is good also for the one who offers the thanks and for those who hear it.

B. As we look forward to the forthcoming Holidays, remember to Thank God each and every day and throughout the day. Also, we should wake up Thanking God and go to bed Thanking God for His “lovingkindness and ... faithfulness” (v. 2).

- “¹⁶ As for me, I will call upon God; and the Lord shall save me. ¹⁷ Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice” (Ps 55:16-17).
- “Pray without ceasing” (1 Thess 5:17).

C. Quotes About Giving Thanks To the Lord

1. According to Dr. Kevin Folger, “God is the only one worthy of our praise. There is no doubt that God expects His children to maintain and practice a Spirit of Thanksgiving and Sincere Gratitude. This is first and foremost, to be directed toward our Heavenly Father from whom all Blessings flow” (Ministry 127).
2. “Why should we give thanks? Because everything we have comes from God.” – Billy Graham
3. “Near the end of her life, Francis Ridley Havergal jotted down every day on a little calendar everything – often a little thing – for which she thanked God. It was her way of thinking about thanking.” (Preacher’s Sourcebook).

In this Bible Study, we will study three reasons to “Give Thanks Unto The Lord”:

(1) Thank God for His Forgiveness, (2) Thank God for His Provision, and (3) Thank God for His Love.

I. Thank God for His Forgiveness (Ps 103:2-3; Isa 55:7)

- “² Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: ³ Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases” (Ps 103:2-3).
- “Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon” (Isa 55:7).
- “**Forgiveness**” – God’s promise not to count our sins against us. To be released from sin – as if we never sinned. To excuse wrongdoing.

A. Thank God for the Blessing of the forgiveness (pardon) of our sins – all sin is gone in Christ Jesus.

B. Believers are forgiven for sins that come “out of the heart” (Mark 7:21-23).

1. Sins of Omission – those sins in which we know we should have done something good but refused to do so.

- “Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon” (James 4:17).

2. Sins of Commission – those sins we take action to commit whether in thought, word, or deed. This type of sin can be intentional or unintentional.

- “Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile” (Ps 32:1-2).

- **Forgiveness**

An attorney, after meditating on several Scriptures, decided to cancel the debts of all his clients that had owed him money for more than 6 months. He drafted a letter explaining his decision and its Biblical basis and sent 17 debt canceling letters via certified mail. One by one, the letters were returned by the Postal Service, unsigned and undelivered. Perhaps a couple people had moved away though not likely. Sixteen of the seventeen letters came back to him because the clients refused to sign for and open the envelopes fearing that this attorney was suing them for their debts. How profound! We owe a debt for our sin and God is willing to cancel it but too many people will not even open the letter that explains how (Ministry 127).

- **From East to West**

Someone asked an elderly Christian lady, “Does the devil ever trouble you about your past sins?” She answered, “Yes.” When the inquirer asked what she did then, she replied, “Oh, I just tell him to go east.” “What do you do if he comes back?” “I tell him to go west.” “And when he comes back from the west, what do you do then?” She said, “I just keep him going from the east to the west.”

“As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.” Psalm 103:12 - (Ministry 127).

- Rejoice today, believer, that your sins are beyond the reach of man or demons. Because Jesus died on the cross and rose from the grave, God removed your transgressions “as far as the east is from the west” (Ps. 103:12) – (Our Daily Bread).

II. Thank God for His Provision (Ps 103:5)

- “Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's” (Ps 103:5)

A. Physical Provision

We need to thank God for providing us with all that we need, such as, life, food, clothing, housing, and land. We are to completely depend on God daily to meet the needs in our lives. **WE NEED GOD!**

- **“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want”** (Ps 23:1).
David expressed his confidence in God as his shepherd. He knew that God as the Shepherd cared for him and would meet all of his needs – David lacked nothing (“I shall not want”). As Believers, we can be sure that the Good Shepherd will meet all of our needs.

B. Spiritual Provision

1. God has provided us with His Word – It is true, reliable, unfailing and points us to Christ.

- “This Book contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler’s map, the pilgrim’s staff, the pilot’s compass, the soldier’s sword, and the Christian’s character. Here paradise is restored, Heaven opened, and the gates of hell disclosed. Christ is its grand object; our good is its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently, and prayerfully. It is given you in life and will be opened in the judgment and will be remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility, will reward the greatest labor, and will condemn all who trifle with its sacred contents (Grace Quotes – Anonymous).

2. God has provided us with His presence

- “I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee” (Heb 13:5).
- “I am with you always” (Matt 28:20).

3. God has provided us with an Advocate – The Holy Spirit (John 7:39; 14:16-18; 16:5-11)

The Role of the Holy Spirit. (Advocate – He is called to our side to help).

a. He is our Advocate and Helper (John 15:26)

He will testify about Christ to us. He will reveal the “Spirit of Truth” to us.

b. He is our Helper (John 16:8)

He will work in the world to convince and convict Unbelievers of their sins, drawing them to Christ to help them realize how desperate they need the One and Only Savior – Jesus Christ. The Advocate will work continuously in the life of a Believer to help him grow and mature spiritually.

c. He is our Teacher (John 14:26; Luke 12:11-12; 1 Cor 2:13)

Prior to studying the Word of God, we should always make it a habit to ask the Holy Spirit to teach us and fill us with spiritual wisdom and understanding of the Word. We should also ask the Holy Spirit to bring spiritual truths to our remembrance in situations where we need to apply them.

d. He is our Intercessor (Rom 8:26-27)

- “²⁶Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. ²⁷ And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God” (Rom 8:26-27).

He helps us in prayer – When we do not know what to pray for or how to pray, He comes to assist us by interceding before God on our behalf based on God’s will for our lives.

- Jesus is our Intercessor. God has pardoned us for our sin and guilt. Therefore, it is Satan not God who accuses us. When he does, Jesus serves as the advocate for our defense, standing at God’s right hand to present our case (Ps 103:6; Rom 8:34; Heb 7:25; 1 John 2:2).

e. He is our Strengthener (Eph 3:16)

- “That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man” (Eph 3:16).

He helps by providing us with spiritual strength daily if we would just ask him. Paul prayed for the Believers in the church to be strengthened with might (power) by the Holy Spirit in the inner man. The Power to grow up in Christ, live for Him Daily and to do the work assigned to us by Him cannot come from any other source. It comes from God through the Holy Spirit (Phil 2:13; Acts 1:8).

III. Thank God for His Love (1 John 4:8, 10)

- “⁸ He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. ¹⁰Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins” (1 John 4:8, 10).

A. Jesus stood in the Gap – He Died for us, Stood in the Gap, Intercessor, Go Between

1. “Propitiation for our sin” – to satisfy, to cover, to pay the penalty for, atoning sacrifice.
2. Jesus is the propitiation – means by which our sins are forgiven.
 - “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).
 - “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom 5:8).

B. Jesus Saved Us from Hell

It is His death on the Cross, the death that released His precious blood that opened the door of Salvation for every sinner who comes to God for forgiveness of sin.

- “Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot” (1 Pet 1:18).
 - “For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed” (1 Pet 2:21, 24).
- C. Jesus did not solely die on the Cross – He died for You. Every drop of His blood was shed for You. Every step, every humiliation, every strike, every whip, every mocking, every piercing nail ... You were always on His mind. We are Saved by the blood.

D. Alas, and did my Savior bleed

Alas! and did my Savior bleed, and did my Sovereign die!
 Would he devote that sacred head for sinners such as I?
 At the cross, at the cross where I first saw the light,
 And the burden of my heart rolled away, It was there by faith I received my sight,
 And now I am happy all the day!

CONCLUSION:

A. Thank God for His Forgiveness, His Provision and His Love.

B. As Believers, we should set aside some time each day to Thank the Lord who has Blessed us so richly.

C. Count your many Blessings, name them one by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord has done.

D. ABC's of Salvation

- **A – Admit** that you're a sinner and that you cannot save yourself (Rom 3:23, Eph 2:8-9).
- **B – Believe** that Jesus died on the Cross and rose again for your sins (Rom 5:8, 1 Cor. 15:3-4).
- **C – Confess**/Call on Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior (Rom 10:9-13)

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 November 29, 2023

“... the word of our God shall stand for ever” (Isa 40:8).