

Psalm 100 – A Psalm of Thanksgiving

INTRODUCTION:

1. This past Thursday we enjoyed one of our most cherished national holidays, which we call Thanksgiving.
 - A. It is a wonderful day, generally with much food and enjoyable time together with family, friends, and brethren.
 - B. Though we look forward to that day and the spirit of the holidays it brings, for the people of God every day should be a thanksgiving day.
2. To show you why I want us to look at Psalm 100 which is a grand psalm of thanksgiving.
 - A. It is such because it addresses our need to give thanks, tells us how to do so, and explains why God's people should give thanks.
 - B. I hope this psalm will help open our eyes a little wider to the value of being a child of God and how it should result in daily praise and thanksgiving to Him.

BODY:

I. “Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth.” (100:1).

- A. This shouting suggests the shouts of joy and praise for a triumphant king, of which God is worthy (Psalm 98:6).
 1. What this says is that you and I have something to do in worship to God. We do not sit back and watch, but gladly participate, letting God know how we feel about Him.
 2. We should gladly do so because the God we praise is the LORD, or **Jehovah**—the **I AM**—the one and only **eternal, self-existent God**.
- B. **All the earth** is to praise Jehovah.
 1. This is a reminder that the **earth** is **subject** to God, which we sometimes forget.
 2. God's sovereignty should affect the way we think about life and praise Him.
 - a. There needs to be confidence in our worship and service to God, knowing that we serve the one who rules.
 - b. Sooner or later **all** will submit to Him (Phil. 2:9-11 – “For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,¹¹ and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”).
 3. This a call to God's people to make known the good news of Christ to the world that all might know and praise Him in victorious song!

II. “Serve the Lord with gladness; Come before Him with joyful singing” (100:2)

- A. These statements are equal, presenting the same thought in different words for emphasis.
 1. In other words, the command to **serve** is presented as the same as to **come before Him**, connecting the biblical idea of *service* to *worship*.
 2. We must see that *service is worship*.
 - a. What we do in **obedient service** in our daily lives is **worship** before the Lord (Rom. 12:1 – “Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to **present your bodies** a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.”).
 - b. God intends for this truth to have a major impact on our lives.
 - i. When we serve others, we serve Christ (Matt. 25:40).
 - ii. Wives are to submit to their husbands “as to the Lord” (Eph. 5:22).
 - iii. Children obey their parents “in the Lord” (Eph. 6:1).
 - iv. We work our jobs “as to the Lord, and not to men” (Eph. 6:7).
 - v. These verses indicate that our service is done with the intention of glorifying God, showing our submission and adoration of Him as our Lord.
 3. We must also see that *worship is service*.
 - a. In other words, acceptable worship is a matter of *submitting to* and *doing God's will*.
 - i. In the New Testament *worship* (*proskyneō*) literally means to *prostrate oneself*, to *bow down* before someone, as one does before a king.

- ii. We struggle with this in America today, seeing we have no concept of the power a king possesses, nor how *humble* and *submissive* one had to be to enter his presence.
 - iii. This is the idea God wants us to grasp about Him.
 - b. Thus, most of the religious world falsely believes they are worshipping God when they present to Him what *they feel He wants* or what *they are excited about*, as worship to God rather than what God has revealed that He wants in His will.
 - i. **That is a critical mistake.**
 - ii. For, what is done from man's will worships man and makes worship vain (Matt. 15:8-9 – "This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far away from Me. ⁹ 'But in vain do they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.'").
- B. We are commanded to **serve, or worship**, the Lord with **gladness**.
1. Worship/service done *in submission to God's will* in no way hampers the gladness, the heartfelt nature, of this grand opportunity.
 - a. This is, again, where the religious world has failed, falsely believing that worship done exactly according to Christ's law is heartless "legalism," rather than a thankful and joyous response to God's grace.
 - b. Yet, God's revelation of His law today, His **instructions** for us to obey, is part of His saving **grace** (Titus 2:11-12 – "For the **grace of God** has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, ¹² **instructing** us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age").
 2. Thus, the worship we offer according to Christ's will is to be done with thankfulness in the heart (Col. 3:16 – "Let the **word of Christ** richly dwell within you, with all wisdom **teaching** and **admonishing** one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, **singing with thankfulness in your hearts** to God.").

III. "Know that the Lord Himself is God; it is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture" (100:3)

- A. Acceptable thanksgiving and praise come from **knowledge** of God.
1. We need to truly **know** that Jehovah is God—to ponder that truth and allow it to change us.
 2. Worship/service must be **intelligent**, done with **knowledge** of who we are thanking and why.
 - a. Jesus emphasized the importance of this knowledge to the Samaritan woman at the well when she questioned Him about worship (Jn. 4:22 – "You worship what you **do not know**; we worship **what we know**, for salvation is from the Jews.").
 - b. This need for knowledge was addressed by Paul at Athens (Acts 17:22-23 – "So Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I observe that **you are very religious** in all respects. ²³ For while I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription, 'to an unknown god.' Therefore what you **worship in ignorance**, this I **proclaim to you**.").
 - i. Worship is not enough, even when it is heartfelt.
 - ii. Worship must be given according to knowledge, according to truth.
 3. A greater knowledge of God means a more meaningful and fulfilling with with greater assurance of it being acceptable to God.
- B. We are given two very important reasons why we should be thankful and worship God.
1. We are His **by right**, seeing Jehovah is *God*, or *Elohim*, the all-powerful Creator...**who made us** (Gen. 1:1ff.).
 - a. We owe everything to God—our life, sustenance, happiness, etc.
 - b. It is this knowledge of God as our creator that gives us dignity and purpose. We are not meaningless products of some uncaused accident, but the product of God's will.
 - i. When people forget this and worship themselves and the creation, as has become the norm of our society today, then idolatry, materialism, immorality, degrading passions, dishonestly, ruthlessness, and lack of mercy follow (Rom. 1:24-32).
 - ii. Though people may not like the idea of being accountable to God, the observable facts show that the more we reject Him, the less life means, and the greater the chaos.

2. We are His **by choice**, seeing **God** has **chosen us** to be His people.
 - a. The God of the universe has **chosen us to be his flock**, and He to be our *shepherd*, which we know to have come about by such **great sacrifice**—that of His Son on the cross.
 - b. As our shepherd God guides, protects, and provides for us his sheep, leading us into green pastures and beside still waters (Psa. 23).
 - c. This fact should invoke deep adoration and praise to God, seeing there is no one better to shepherd our lives than God, the creator, owner, and ruler of the universe.

IV. “Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name” (100:4).

- A. No doubt this invitation recalls the times of Jewish worship at the temple where God’s presence was made known.
 1. Although one does worship God in their daily service, here we see that God also desires a form of thanksgiving and praise involving His people coming together.
 - a. And that has not changed (Heb. 10:24-25 – “and let us consider how **to stimulate one another to love and good deeds**,²⁵ **not forsaking our own assembling together**, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.”).
 - b. Know that God has not called us to serve in isolation, but to serve, worship, and praise Him together with fellow *believers*.
 2. The simplicity of this invitation should not conceal its wonder.
 - a. This was a call to enter **God’s courts**, the courts of the **most High and holy God**.
 - i. Not just anyone could enter there.
 - ii. The sinful and defiled were barred in the O.T.; and we know they continue to be barred from entering today (Rev. 21:26-27). We have to be pure and holy to do so.
 - b. Thus, entering God’s courts is a **matter of His grace**, seeing He has cleansed us in Christ of sin and made us **worthy** to enter **the holy place** (Heb. 10:19-20 – “Therefore, brethren, since we have **confidence to enter the holy place** by the **blood of Jesus**,²⁰ by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh”).
- B. So, giving thanks and blessing God’s name must abound in God’s people.
 1. This is at the heart of why we are here.
 2. We come into God’s presence with the only gift we truly have to offer Him—our sacrifice of gratitude, praise, and adoration for His greatness and goodness in opening the gates of His courts to such sinful and unworthy people!

V. “For the LORD is good; His lovingkindness is everlasting and His faithfulness to all generations” (100:5)

- A. Here we are given the final proof, the final reasons, why we are to worship God.
- B. Jehovah is **good!**
 1. There are infinite differences in the goodness of God revealed in the scriptures and the nature of the idolatrous gods man has created throughout time.
 - a. In the Bible you find God blessing man continually in hopes that someone, somewhere, **might take notice Him** (Acts 14:17 – “...He **did not leave Himself without witness**, in that He did good and gave you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness.”, also Acts 17:26-28).
 - b. With idols gods you find men hopelessly pleading, cutting themselves, even offering their children as live sacrifices in hopes that that these lifeless gods **might notice them**.
 2. God’s goodness continues to faithfully supply all that is good for us today (Jas. 1:17 – “Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.”).
 3. We are invited to taste His goodness, to know it fully in our lives (Psa. 34:8 – “O taste and see that the Lord is good; how blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!”).
- C. Jehovah’s **lovingkindness is everlasting**.
 1. God’s love and kindness is always there for those who would truly seek it out.

2. Paul spoke of this (Rom. 8:38-39 – “For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”).
3. Think about how incredibly comforting that should be to Christians.

D. Jehovah’s **faithfulness is to all generations**.

1. All that God says is true. He never goes back on His word. He always keeps His promises.
2. This should cause us to praise him because...
 - a. He has **entered a covenant of salvation with us**, which means He will not revoke it or alter it, and will fulfill His side of the covenant, giving eternal life to the faithful (Rev. 2:10).
 - b. We can live our lives in confidence because the One we have entrusted our lives and eternal salvation to is faithful **always** (Heb. 10:23 – “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.”).

CONCLUSION:

1. As we conclude, I hope this psalm and our consideration of it has enlightened and encouraged you concerning the God we worship and serve and how thankful we should be as His children.
2. Let us give thanks to Him because **the Lord IS good**. There is no one nor anything better to serve in this life...and for eternity!
3. Will you come to Jesus today?