

THE THANKSGIVING SONG

(Psalm 100)

...The very first Thanksgiving Day was celebrated by the Pilgrims in the Fall of 1621, a year after they had arrived in the New World. This godly band of 102 pilgrims had suffered much in Europe, made a late Fall crossing of the Atlantic, only to lose a majority of their number during the first winter... gathered to give thanks to God.

...This week as we gather together to enjoy a Thanksgiving meal, let's us remember to give thanks to the Lord our God. Consider all that He has done and given to you. Everything you have is from Him. Give Him Thanks!!!

...Psalm 100 is the only psalm that has as its title, "For giving thanks." It is appropriate that we visit this old friend again.

TWO REASONS WHY WE SHOULD GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD.

...For we are to praise Him with thanksgiving, and not just on one day, but everyday!!

I. We Are To Give Him Thanks For WHAT He Has Done. (vv.1-3)

- A. We are told HOW to give Him thanks. (3 ways) (vv. 1-2) Note the imperatives.
1. SHOUT! We can shout and praise Him loudly because we are happy with Him.
...this is the glad shout of loyal subjects when their king appears. emphasis: Gladness!
 2. SERVE! (worship) Give thanks to God by meeting the needs of others. All kinds of...
...feed the hungry, help the sick and dying, befriend the stranger...help the lonely, etc.
 3. COME! Gather together to worship the Lord. Formal worship is in view here.
...an important part of giving thanks is to join together with others and praise Him.
...don't ever minimize the assembling together with God's people.
- B. God is worthy of this expression because of the great things He has done. (v.3)
1. He is the CREATOR of all. He is our Maker. (v.3a)
 - a. We are to KNOW this. This means our thanksgiving must be intelligent. Not like the Athenians who worshiped the "unknown god." (Acts 17:23)
 - b. Also notice the connection between God and us. You cannot really know yourself until you first know God. You are made in His likeness...you are not some cosmic chance that has no purpose...you are wonderfully made...
Without knowing God, we think we are self-made. This is the appeal of evolution, for it does away with needing God. If we don't need...no thanks...
 2. He is the REDEEMER. "we are His people." WOW!
 - a. This is more important than His creatorship. He has saved us from our sins.
 - b. Since we are "his people...the sheep of His pasture." He can do with us as seems best to Him. Regardless of what happens, we are His.
...lose job, we are His...lose health, we are His...lose life, we are His.

II. We Are To Give Him Thanks For WHO God Is. (vv.4-5)

- ...We are never to forget the glorious wonder of the Lord! He, alone, is worthy of our best praise.
- A. The invitation is given for us to "enter," to come together and give Him expressions of gratitude
1. This invitation is a command. God requires this of His people.
 2. This is not private worship. It is the gathering together of believers in a public setting for the purpose of corporate worship.
 3. One way we can give thanks to God is by inviting others to join with us in worship.
...When is the last time you invited someone to church? Let's all invite others to come.
- B. God tells us about Himself by revealing three qualities: (v. 5)
1. God is GOOD. The pagan gods were not good. He is! "He is good all the time."
His creation: it is good! His law: it is good! His will: good! His Gospel: good!
...even our English word "good" comes from God. Good and God go together!
 2. God is LOVING. Nothing so endears God to His people more than this. He loves us!
...it is God's nature to love. Wow! It's hard to imagine He could love the likes of us.
 3. God is FAITHFUL. This is without change.(immutable) He is the same today as when Abraham, David, and Paul lived. Has God seen you through tough times? He will continue to do so in the future. Has He been loving to you in the past? Of course!
Don't worry, He will continue to be so in the future. He is faithful. Give Him thanks!

LESSONS FOR OUR LIVES:

1. Do not be subdued in your praise of *God*!! Thank him from your heart!
2. You must not praise Him in ignorance... come to know Him as your *Creator*, and *Redeemer*.
3. As you gather to eat your meal on Thursday... take time to give thanks to *God*!! Share *God's* blessing.
4. If you are a *Christian*, then every day should be a *Thanksgiving Day*!!
5. Ask the *Lord* to forgive your lack of gratitude and give you a continual heart of praise.