

Thanksgiving for God's Distinctive Grace

Psalm 9:1-2

This is a season...

To celebrate with family...

To give thanks...

To give thanks? Do you?

This is a series...

To identify what distinguishes the Chapel...

To confirm what we value and treasure in ministry...

To call for affirmation of the wisdom choices we have made in ministry...

This is a sermon...

In this series in this season...

To give thanks for God's grace to us...

This Psalm calls for an affirmative response. "I will..." It does not command us. But we can echo it as we think about God's distinctive grace to us.

Let us stand and read our text together, please.

¹ I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart;

I will recount all of your wonderful deeds.

² I will be glad and exult in you;

I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.

We are responding with gratitude to all God's good for us.

We Give Thanks

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart;

The action...

Gratitude is an evidence of grace...

Gratitude is an experience of grace...

Gratitude is an expression of grace...

The object...

We give thanks to our God...

He is the benefactor, the source of all we give thanks for.

We give thanks to the Lord...

He is the sovereign and King over all we give thanks for.

The standard...

Our thanks is to be genuine...

If you are not grateful, don't say you are.

If you say you are thankful, say for what.

Our thanks is to be whole hearted...

What does this mean?

How can our hearts be filled?

We Remember All

I will recount all of your wonderful deeds.

The enumeration...

We are to count our blessings.

Real thanksgiving is specific.

We give thanks for specific things.

We give thanks for specific people.

Real thanksgiving is global.

We give thanks from a larger perspective.

We give thanks from a historical perspective.

Real thanksgiving is comprehensive.

What does all mean to you?

Where does that fit into your life of praise and prayer?

The reason...

To remember all God's wonderful works for us is not pride.

To fail to remember all God's wonderful works for us is arrogance.

To choose ("I will") is an act of humility.

We Rejoice and Exult

I will be glad and exult in you;

The attitude...

Gratitude is to be infused with gladness. It cannot be a duty. It flows from deep delight in God and all His good for us.

The aim...

To exult in God, instead of...

We sing Praise

I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.

The call...

I think Christians should sing. Even if you don't have a voice, you can sing.

When you don't want to sing, what is wrong? Why?

The object...

What does it mean to sing praise to God's Name?

Who ultimately are we singing to and for and about?

The identification...

The exalted name of the Lord.

The exalted position of the Lord.

Reflect and Respond

We will give thanks to the Lord: (ask the congregation to respond, "We give thanks.")

For our heavenly Father who has chosen us and sent His Son to save u. (Response)

For the Lord, our redeemer and ruler, who loves us and dwells among u. (Response)

For the Spirit who regenerated us and lives in us giving us our life, our virtue, our spiritual abilities. (Response)

For the Word, which is food, our drink, our guide, our guard, sufficient for all our life. (Response)

For the people He has given us over the years and who are with us now. (Response)

For those who sacrificially serve as elders to shepherd, lead, and govern the church. (Response)

For those who faithfully serve as deacons and deaconess in the church, in the ministries, and in our Flocks. (Response)

For the wisdom the Lord has given to elders and leaders over the years in designing Chapel ministries.

For the facility He has given us to use for His glory. (Response)

For the finances we have through your faithful giving. (Response)

For the global ministry God has given us to serve His people and churches all over the world. (Response)

Now, stand with me and let us once again read this as a corporate response:

¹We will give thanks to the Lord with our whole hearts;

We will recount all of your wonderful deeds.

²We will be glad and exult in you;

We will sing praise to your name, O Most High.