

Lighthouse Bible Church

November 23rd, 2014

Psalm 100 *Scripture Reading: Revelation 4: 1 - 11*

‘Glorifying God with Thanksgiving’ Pt.#2

Stand – Read – Pray

Last week we began to look at how we can ‘glorify God’ because that is the highest calling we have in the Christian life; glorifying God. That is why **Romans 11: 36** says **for of Him and through Him and to Him are all things to whom be glory forever..**

That is why in **Revelation 4: 8 – 11** we see the holy angels and the representation of the church with the 24 elders **giving glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne.**

Last week we saw some ways in which we could bring glory to God and that it really boiled down to **1st Corinthians 10: 31** where it said **whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the GLORY of God.**

We also saw that being willing to glorify God above all else sometimes comes at a price and we looked at that in some detail last time with examples from the old and new testament.

Then we looked at several ways that we can specifically glorify God. We saw that it starts with a desire in our heart to do that out of a deep love for Him and because we feel the pain and righteous anger when God is dishonored because of our love for Him.

We looked at the fact that we could glorify God by Confessing Sin, by Trusting Him, by Bearing Much Fruit in our lives, by Praising Him, in our Prayer Life before Him, by abstaining from sexual immorality and by Using our Spiritual Gifts, just to name a few.

So this morning, we want to look at how we can glorify God WITH THANKSGIVING because in every area of our lives, like how we are to glorify God, we are also to be thankful to Him. It can't be stated any clearer than in **1st Thessalonians 5: 18** where it says **in everything GIVE THANKS, why, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.**

Not just in some things but **in everything** we are called to give thanks. **Ephesians 5: 20** says **giving thanks ALWAYS for ALL THINGS to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.** It is easy to give thanks to God when things are going well, when we are healthy, when we have extra money, when there is no turmoil or pain or other issues in our lives.

But it is a little harder when things are not going so well, when you are threatened with losing your job or your doctor diagnoses you with some type of cancer or other serious health issue or the stock market crashes and you lose your savings and your retirement or your involved in a car accident or any number of things.

The call in 1st Thessalonians 5: 18 is **in everything** give thanks to God because that is His will for you. Because like we saw last time, God is sovereign and involves Himself in every area of our lives that should cause us to be thankful to Him; remember **Acts 17: 25** said **He GIVES TO ALL LIFE, BREATH and ALL THINGS** and in **Acts 17: 28** it says **in Him we live and move and have our being.**

We have a lot to be thankful for but sometimes our thanksgiving is more directed at people than it is at God. There is nothing wrong with being thankful for our families, friends, our health, our jobs or whatever, but when that kind of thanksgiving overshadows where our true thanksgiving should be and exalts and thanks people more than God, who gives us all those things anyway, then we are not giving thanks to God in everything.

And our giving of thanks to God is more than just simply saying thank you to Him in a general, non descript, blanket kind of statement. It is acknowledging Him as sovereign in every area of our lives that causes us to give Him thanks in everything.

That is why the Psalmist wrote in **Psalm 50: 14 offer to God Thanksgiving** and **Psalm 92: 1 it is good to give Thanks to the Lord**. We are called in **Psalm 69: 30 to magnify Him with Thanksgiving**. In **Psalm 95: 2 we are to come before His presence with Thanksgiving**. **Hebrews 13: 15 says let us CONTINUALLY offer the sacrifice of praise to God that is the fruit of our lips GIVING THANKS to His name**. As a matter of fact the word thanks, thanksgiving, thankful is used at least 150 times in the Bible and much of it directed toward God or because of God.

So as we approach this thanksgiving time what can and should we be giving thanks to God for. If it is His will that we are to give thanks in everything, then what does that everything include that we can glorify God with thanksgiving?

Well, this is not an exhaustive list by any means, but it will help us, especially this time of year, to focus on some things that the Bible says we can truly be thankful for that will bring glory to God and be done in the will of God.

First of all, we can be thankful to God and give thanks to God as we PRAY to God. **Colossians 4: 2** says **continue earnestly in prayer being vigilant in it with Thanksgiving.** Our prayer life ought to be marked with thanksgiving but often times it is marked with an I I me me with no thought of giving than. Just the fact that we can go to the creator of the universe and talk with Him as with anyone else ought to be a cause for thanksgiving. He is not a distant God or an unapproachable God, He is our friend, He is near to all who call upon Him in truth with thanksgiving.

Remember what **Philippians 4: 6 - 7** says **be anxious for nothing, but in everything by Prayer and Supplication, with Thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.** Why? So that **the peace of God which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.** When was the last time you stopped to thank God for the fact that you can go to Him anytime and anyplace and cast your cares upon Him?

What else can we be thankful to God for? His abundant MERCY in our lives. In **Psalm 106: 1** and **Psalm 107: 1** say **praise the Lord. O give Thanks to the Lord, for He is good for His Mercy endures forever.** It says the exact same thing in **Psalm 136: 1** it says the very same thing but the rest of that Psalm, all 26 verses, repeat all 26 times, **for His mercy endures forever.**

What is God's mercy? Mercy is withholding from us what we do deserve. His grace is giving to us what we don't deserve. What did God withhold from us that we do deserve? **Romans 6: 23** **for the wages of sin is death.** **Revelation 20: 15** **anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.** Paul wrote in **1st Corinthians 15: 56 – 57** **the sting of death is sin and the strength of sin is the law.**

We are all under the condemnation of the law which requires death and punishment for sin. But the rest of that verse goes on to say **but THANKS be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

The Psalmist wrote in *turn to* **Psalm 103: 10 – 12** ...so great is His mercy... when was the last time you stopped and thanked God for showing you His mercy in saving you from the penalty and punishment of your sins?

Which leads us to something else that we are to be thankful to God for; our **SALVATION**; being saved by grace through faith and that not of yourselves, it is a gift of God.. **Ephesians 2: 8 – 9** says.

2nd Thessalonians 2: 13 says but we are bound to GIVE THANKS to God always for you brethren beloved by the Lord (why Paul) because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. Are you thankful for God choosing you and saving you? Have you expressed thanks to God for Him not only saving you but saving those whom you know and love or were instrumental in leading to the Lord.

Not only that, but something else we should give thanks to God for is the fact that once we are saved we **GROW** in our faith because of Him. In **2nd Thessalonians 1: 3** Paul writes we are bound to THANK God Always for you brethren as is fitting BECAUSE your faith grows exceedingly... He wrote to the church in **Romans 1: 8** first I THANK my God, through Jesus Christ for you all THAT your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.

When you look back on your Christian life and see where you were then and where He has brought you now, have you stopped to say thanks for the sanctifying, growing, maturing work He has done in your life.

And your ought to thank Him because, as **Philippians 1: 6** says be confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will complete it until the day of Christ Jesus.

Something else that we should be thankful for always that often times we are not and that is those AUTHORITIES God has placed over us. **1st Timothy 2: 1 – 2** says **therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions and GIVING of THANKS be made for ALL men, for kings and all who are in authority that we made lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior who desires all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth.** When was the last time you stopped and thanked God for our police officers, our city council and mayor, our judicial authorities our governors, legislatures, and all the way up to our president?

Something else very important for us to be thankful to God for is His WORD. He has revealed Himself and His Son through this book that sometimes we never open or are thankful for. **Psalm 119: 62** says **at midnight I will rise to GIVE THANKS to You BECAUSE of Your righteous judgments.**

In **1st Thessalonians 2: 13** it says **for this reason we also THANK God without ceasing BECAUSE when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men but as it is in truth, the word of God which also effectively works in you who believe.**

When was the last time you stopped and thanked God for His word and how it is dwelling in you and changing your life and becoming your authority for faith and practice and answering the difficult questions of life and gives you a rest and hope for the future?

One other thing that we can be thankful for is God's CREATION. In **Psalm 75: 1** it says **we GIVE THANKS to You O God we GIVE THANKS FOR Your wondrous works declare that Your name is near.** We can thank God for His creative power and all of His wondrous works that declare who He is; and that is everything, so that is why 'in everything give thanks'.

Remember last time we saw that God's attributes and power were clearly declared and seen through His work of creation **Romans 1: 20** said. And do you remember the people who were unthankful after knowing this. **Romans 1: 21** says **although they knew God they did not glorify Him as God nor were they THANKFUL** God gave them over to a debased mind to do those things that are not fitting because they suppressed the truth in unrighteousness.

Well, lastly, we can and should be thankful to God because of the **INHERITANCE** that awaits all who are His children. **Colossians 1: 12** says **GIVING THANKS to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.** Our inheritance is secure and gives us hope for the future. **1st Peter 1: 3 – 5** says **we have been begotten to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead to an INHERITANCE incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away reserved in heaven for you who are kept by the power of God.** When was the last time you stopped and thanked God for the secure hope and future you have.

Well, we truly have a lot to be thankful for don't we. So why don't we conclude our time the way **Psalm 69: 30** says **I will praise the name of God with a song and will magnify Him with thanksgiving.**

Gospel and closing prayer

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Introduction and Review:

Romans 11: 36, Revelation 4: 8 – 11
1st Corinthians 10: 31

Glorifying God with Thanksgiving:

1st Thessalonians 5: 18, Ephesians 5: 20
Acts 17: 25, 28, Psalm 50: 14, 92: 1, 69: 30
Psalm 95: 2, Hebrews 13: 15

Thankful to God:

In Prayer: Colossians 4: 2, Philippians 4: 6 – 7
For His Mercy: Psalm 106: 1, 107: 1, 136: 1
Romans 6: 23, Revelation 20: 15
1st Corinthians 15: 56 – 57
Psalm 103: 10 – 12
For Salvation: Ephesians 2: 8 – 9, 2nd Thess. 2: 13
For Spiritual Growth: 2nd Thessalonians 1: 3
Romans 1: 8, Phil. 1: 6
For Authorities: 1st Timothy 2: 1 – 2
For His Word: Psalm 119: 62, 1st Thess. 2: 13
For His Works: Psalm 75: 1, Romans 1: 20 – 21
For His Inheritance: Colossians 1: 12
1st Peter 1: 3 – 5

In everything give thanks:

Psalm 69: 30

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