

“Thanksgiving” Psalm 100 A Psalm of Thanksgiving.

Four-hundred and one years ago, the Pilgrims who came over on the Mayflower, all members of a single church, celebrated “Thanksgiving.” When they first arrived was in winter. It was too cold, the weather was too severe for them to leave the Mayflower and most of them died on the ship: of cold, of disease and of starvation. The survivors were of course “Thankful” that they had survived.

The second winter was milder. They were able to build shelters, the native Americans, Indians in that area, helped them to grow food. They were certainly thankful for help from the Indians. However, what they were most “thankful” for was religious freedom. They were godly, Christian believers. They wrote the “Mayflower Compact” which was a Biblically based governmental document that became the basis for self-government later reflected in our Declaration of Independence and Constitution.

I. Praise and thanksgiving; a command for all!

NKJ Psalm 100:1 Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands! (Psalm 100:1 NKJ)

1. *All the lands, even Gentiles, owed and owe God thanks and praise–*

- A. *The title of this Psalm is - A Psalm of Thanksgiving.*
- B. *“All you lands” includes Israel, but plural “lands” means not only Israel, but all the Gentile nations as well.*
- C. *That “lands” are spoken to, and not individuals, shows us involvement of nations as nations in praising God and is an argument against secular or atheistic government.*
- D. *We were not founded to be a secular nation. Even “separation of church and state” from a letter of Thomas Jefferson, is misread and misapplied by atheists (and their friends).*
 - *Not meant to keep churches out of government, but rather to keep government out of churches!*
 - *Not part of the U. S. Constitution-*

First Amendment “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...”

2. *The fact there is not more world-wide praise is because of sin-*

If all were right in the world instead of Playboy Magazine, we would have Pray Boy or Praise Boys Magazines, teaching young men to pray to, and praise God; and these magazines would be popular! Going to church, praising God are not popular today, especially among young people. Not only that, but atheists passionately rant against God, even in churches and in many places. Christians are killed for their faith – Scripture tells us these things –
7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. (Romans 8:7 NKJ)

3. *We are condemned due to lack of thanksgiving-*

Today, thanksgiving to God is treated by many as a hated thing! Therefore, the wrath of God is on us as a nation!

A. *Note wrath is revealed -*

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,...

Two kinds of sin:

(1) *Ungodliness – against God, against the first table of the law, worshipping other God’s, worshiping the true God in wrong ways, example the golden calf ... taking God’s Name in vain, not observing the sabbath ...*

(2) *Unrighteousness – against our fellow man, not honoring father or mother, murder, adultery, stealing, lying- false witness, coveting...*

Not being “thankful” is part of our sin against God -

²¹ because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Professing to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. Romans 1:21-23 (NKJV)

B. *Part of God’s judgment for our not being thankful, is He gives us up to other sins -*

²⁴ Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, ... Romans 1:24 (NKJV)

²⁶ For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. Romans 1:26 (NKJV)

²⁸ And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; Romans 1:28 (NKJV)

II. *Before we can call others to this happy duty, we should be doing it ourselves –*

¹ Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands! ² Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before His presence with singing.

:1 The word “shout” implies noise, energy, volume!

:2 This is a happy, glad service - Verse 2.—“Serve the Lord with gladness.”

Gary Chapman wrote a book about 5 Love Languages: Word of Encouragement (Praise) Spending Time, Giving Gifts, Works of Service, Physical Touch

Other than Physical touch all of these can be applied to our relationship with God! Considering that Jesus counts what we do for the least of His brethren, as done for Him, maybe even physical touch is something we can do for God? Definitely we are glad to serve someone we love!

– 34 “Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: 35 ‘for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; 36 ‘I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’ 37 “Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? 38 ‘When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? 39 ‘Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ 40 “And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’ (Matthew 25:34-40 NKJ)

III. The duty of Thanksgiving is empowered by a true knowledge of God and of His work for us-

Know that the LORD, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Psalm 100:3 (NKJV)

The Bible teaches us both knowledge of God (Theology) and of ourselves (anthropology) and this verse Psalm 100:3, gives us both in a nutshell. We aim to know God, He is our infinite, eternal, unchangeable, holy, all-wise, all-powerful, just and loving Creator.

We should rightly understand, about ourselves, that we are creatures and sinners! Revelation 4 speaks to the honor God deserves as our Creator –

¹¹ “You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created.” Revelation 4:11 (NKJV)

Revelation 5 to that honor God (Christ) deserves as our Redeemer –

⁹ And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, Revelation 5:9 (NKJV)

IV. Coming into God’s presence with singing, has to do with CHURCH SERVICE, but also private worship–

... Come before His presence with singing. Psalm 100:2 B

⁴ Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. Psalm 100:4

1. This Psalm was probably written for temple worship! “Gates” “Courts” :4

2. Some say specifically for the bringing of a thank offering –

⁵ Offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving with leaven, Proclaim and announce the freewill offerings; For this you love, You children of Israel!” Says the Lord GOD. Amos 4:5 (NKJV)

A. As part of the Passover, the Jewish people were instructed to eat unleavened bread –

⁸ Then they shall eat the flesh on that night; roasted in fire, with unleavened bread and with bitter herbs they shall eat it. Exodus 12:8 (NKJV)

B. *This was because they were to hurry out of Egypt and they were to find no pleasure in that place!*

C. *We are instructed similarly, as leaven is sometimes in Scripture symbolic for sin –*

⁷ Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. ⁸ Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. 1 Corinthians 5:7–8 (NKJV)

D. *Yet, the sacrifice of thanksgiving is with LEAVEN / the Luxury of God's presence! It is why we celebrate Thanksgiving with feasting rather than fasting!*

E. *In an ungodly world we fast! In God's presence we feast and rejoice!*

²⁴ And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:24–25 (NKJV)

3. *Feasting in Christ's presence –*

¹⁴ Then the disciples of John came to Him, saying, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast often, but Your disciples do not fast?" ¹⁵ And Jesus said to them, "**Can the friends of the bridegroom mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast.**" Matthew 9:14–15 (NKJV)

4. *Be sure to feast spiritually, always –*

⁴ But He answered and said, "**It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'**" Matthew 4:4 (NKJV)

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Philippians 4:4 (NKJV)

V. *God's goodness, His everlasting mercy, and His enduring truth are reasons for praise and thanksgiving-*

⁵ For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, And His truth endures to all generations. Psalm 100:1–5 (NKJV)

1. *God's goodness is a general term including both justice and love!*
2. *His everlasting mercy is NEEDED because of our great sin. It is seen in Christ's death on the cross for us. It is the reason we celebrate the Lord's Supper.*
3. *His truth enduring to all generations means what we learn from Scripture is NEVER out-of-date!*

Believe it or not, we still have sinners in the world today! They still NEED the salvation provided by Jesus Christ! We still need that salvation! Part of how we show our thankfulness for that salvation is in observing and celebrating the Lord's Supper!