

Evening Sermon Outline – June 20, 2021
“Recognizing and Thanking God for His Goodness”
Psalm 107

I. *Notice, the repeated theme of this Psalm, God’s goodness and mercy, His covenant faithfulness -*

¹ Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *He is good!* For His mercy endures forever. Psalm 107:1 (NKJV)

⁸ Oh, that *men* would give thanks to the LORD for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men! Psalm 107:8 (NKJV)

¹⁵ Oh, that *men* would give thanks to the LORD for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men! Psalm 107:15 (NKJV)

²¹ Oh, that *men* would give thanks to the LORD for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men! Psalm 107:21 (NKJV)

³¹ Oh, that *men* would give thanks to the LORD for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men! Psalm 107:31 (NKJV)

The fact is, God is good to His people, even when He punishes them for their sins. The conclusion of the Psalm is that wise people observe these things and acknowledge God’s loving - kindness –

⁴³ Whoever is wise will observe these *things*, and they will understand the lovingkindness of the LORD. Psalm 107:43 (NKJV)

II. *What specific things shows us God’s goodness, mercy and covenant faithfulness? -*

1. *We are redeemed –*

² Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, Whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy, Psalm 107:2

For the Israelites it was redemption from Pharaoh (their enemy) / slavery in Egypt – for us redemption for sin and its slavery –

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)

2. *We are gathered, found, saved from wandering -*

³ And gathered out of the lands, From the east and from the west, From the north and from the south. ⁴ They wandered in the wilderness in a desolate way; They found no city to dwell in. Psalm 107:3–4 (NKJV)

Even in the Old Testament it is the moral, spiritual, sinful wandering that is worst -

⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:6 (NKJV)

Yet, God gathers us in, saves us from our aimless, thirsty self-destructive wandering!

3. *God Himself is the Answer to our soul’s needs and longings –*

⁵ Hungry and thirsty, Their soul fainted in them. ⁶ Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, *And He* delivered them out of their distresses. ⁷ And He led them forth by the right way, That they might go to a city for a dwelling place. ⁸ Oh, that *men* would give thanks to the LORD for His goodness, *And for* His wonderful works to the children of men! ⁹ For He satisfies the longing soul, And fills the hungry soul with goodness. Psalm 107:5-9

4. *God deliverers us from chains, from slavery, prison, even when we deserve the chains -*

¹⁰ Those who sat in darkness and in the shadow of death, Bound in affliction and irons— ¹¹ Because they rebelled against the words of God, And despised the counsel of the Most High, ¹² Therefore He brought down their heart with labor; They fell down, and *there was* none to help. ¹³ Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, *And He* saved them out of their distresses. ¹⁴ He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, And broke their chains in pieces. ¹⁵ Oh, that *men* would give thanks to the LORD for His goodness, *And for* His wonderful works to the children of men! ¹⁶ For He has broken the gates of bronze, And cut the bars of iron in two. Psalm 107:10-16

We are delivered from slavery to sin -

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. ³⁵ And a slave does not abide in the house forever, *but* a son abides forever. ³⁶ Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed. John 8:34-36

5. *God deliverers from sin caused sickness –*

¹⁷ Fools, because of their transgression, And because of their iniquities, were afflicted. ¹⁸ Their soul abhorred all manner of food, And they drew near to the gates of death. ¹⁹ Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, *And He saved them out of their distresses.* ²⁰ He sent His Word and healed them, And delivered *them* from their destructions. ²¹ Oh, that *men* would give thanks to the LORD for His goodness, And for His wonderful works to the children of men! ²² Let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, And declare His works with rejoicing. Psalm 107:17-22

Verse 17.—“Fools.” There is nothing more foolish than an act of wickedness; there is no wisdom equal to that of obeying God.—
Albert Barnes.

Verse 20.—“His word” who “healed them” was his essential Word, even the second person in the Godhead, our Lord Jesus Christ, the word who was made flesh and dwelt among us: of this divine Word it was foretold in the Old Testament, that he should arise with the glory of the morning sun, bringing healing in his wings for all our maladies; and accordingly the New Testament relates, that Jesus went about all Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing ALL manner of sickness, and ALL manner of disease among the people. He healed the bodily disease miraculously, to prove that he was the Almighty Physician of the soul. And it is remarkable that he never rejected any person who applied to him for an outward cure, to demonstrate to us, that he would never cast out any person who should apply to him for a spiritual cure.—*William Romaine.*

6. *God can and does deliver from the destructive powers of nature, the sea, storms –*

²³ Those who go down to the sea in ships, Who do business on great waters, ²⁴ They see the works of the LORD, And His wonders in the deep. ²⁵ For He commands and raises the stormy wind, Which lifts up the waves of the sea. ²⁶ They mount up to the heavens, They go down again to the depths; Their soul melts because of trouble. ²⁷ They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, And are at their wits' end. ²⁸ Then they cry out to the LORD in their trouble, And He brings them out of their distresses. ²⁹ He calms the storm, So that its waves are

still. ³⁰ Then they are glad because they are quiet; So He guides them to their desired haven. ³¹ Oh, that *men* would give thanks to the LORD for His goodness, And for His wonderful works to the children of men! ³² Let them exalt Him also in the assembly of the people, And praise Him in the company of the elders. Psalm 107:23-32

7. *God is able to bring about justice and equity through His providence*

—
³³ He turns rivers into a wilderness, And the watersprings into dry ground; ³⁴ A fruitful land into barrenness, For the wickedness of those who dwell in it. ³⁵ He turns a wilderness into pools of water, And dry land into watersprings. ³⁶ There He makes the hungry dwell, That they may establish a city for a dwelling place, ³⁷ And sow fields and plant vineyards, That they may yield a fruitful harvest. ³⁸ He also blesses them, and they multiply greatly; And He does not let their cattle decrease. ³⁹ When they are diminished and brought low Through oppression, affliction and sorrow, ⁴⁰ He pours contempt on princes, And causes them to wander in the wilderness *where there is no way;* ⁴¹ Yet He sets the poor on high, far from affliction, And makes *their families like a flock.* ⁴² The righteous see *it* and rejoice, And all iniquity stops its mouth. Psalm 107:33-42

Verse 33.—“Rivers” ... “Watersprings.” A church enriched with the graces of heaven is compared by the prophets to a well-watered garden (Isai. 58:11; Jer. 31:12), to the paradise of God, watered with its four fruitful rivers: for as everything useful and ornamental in the vegetable world is raised up by water, so is everything in the spiritual world raised up by the Holy Spirit—*William Romaine.*

III. *The wise person notices these things and understands what God does -*

⁴³ Whoever is wise will observe these *things*, and they will understand the lovingkindness of the LORD. Psalm 107:5-43 (NKJV)

Wisdom is gained through study of God's word, the Bible, in fear of God, and obedience to His commands – Psalm 111:10 also through prayer – James 1:2-5, but in this Psalm another source of wisdom is added, the study and observance of God's providence in the world, or even in our personal lives. God is good!

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