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THE BIBLE VIEW

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Theme: Thankfulness

Grateful People of God

Bill Brinkworth

"Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. 2 Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. 3 Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. 4 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. 5 For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations." Psalms 100:1-5

Many biblical characters were grateful for all the Lord had done in their lives and for their country, as we should be. Some appreciative people in the Bible were:

- The priests of the Old Testament continually showed their thankfulness for God's goodness to them and Israel.
"And he appointed certain of the Levites to minister before the ark of the LORD, and to record, and to thank and praise the LORD God of Israel:" I Chronicles 16:4 Also: I Chron. 23:30.
- An unidentified psalmist in Psalm 100 was thankful.
"Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name." Ps. 100:4
- Hezekiah was thankful.
"Then Hezekiah answered and said, Now ye have consecrated yourselves unto the LORD, come near and bring sacrifices and thank offerings into the house of the LORD. And the congregation brought in sacrifices and thank offerings; and as many as were of a free heart burnt offerings." II Chron. 29:31 Also: II Chron. 33:16.
- Daniel was thankful.
"I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee: for thou hast now made known unto us the king's matter." Dan. 2:23
- Jesus, God's only son, was thankful.
"At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes." Mat. 11:25 Also: Luke:10:21.

- Paul was thankful.
“First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.” Rom. 1:8
“For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.” I Thes. 2:13
“And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;” I Tim. 1:12 Also: Rom. 7:25, I Cor. 1:4, Php. 1:3.

A child of God has so much for which to be thankful. No matter who we are or what we are experiencing, we need to remember His goodness to us and be grateful. We need to be appreciative every day, not just once a year. Are you grateful for God’s goodness?

You might find yourself in a valley of hardship or facing trials, but count your blessings. You could be lying in a cancer ward with only a short time to live, but most likely you are not. You could be jobless and wondering where your next meal is coming from, but hopefully, you are not. You could have some disability that limits you from a “normal” lifestyle, but most likely, you do not. Some may even have one of the above prognoses, but it could always be worse.

Be grateful, as many of the Bible’s heroes mentioned above were. Even after going through hard trials, they expressed their gratefulness to God. Be thankful always for what you do have and God’s underserved kindness in your life.

“Count your blessings, not your problems.”

Be Grateful for God’s Consistency

Michael Green, Illustrations for Biblical Preaching

There is a fictional story told of a day when the sun did not rise. Six o’clock came, and there was no sign of dawn. At seven o’clock, there was still no ray of light. At noon, it was as black as midnight. No birds sang, and only the hoot of an owl broke the silence. Then came the long black hours of the afternoon.

Finally, the evening arrived, but no one slept that night. Some wept; some wrung their hands in anguish. Every church was thronged with people on their knees. Thus, they remained the whole night through.

After that long night of terror and agony, millions of eager, tear-streaked faces were turned toward the east. When the sky began to glow red, and the sun rose, there was a loud shout of joy. Millions of lips said, “Bless the Lord, O my soul” because the sun had risen after one day of darkness.

The very consistency of God’s blessings sometimes seems to dull our gratitude. The wonderful thing about the mercies of God is that they are fresh every morning and new every evening. Let us remember to be continually thankful to our gracious God.

“It is of the LORD’S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. 23 They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.” Lamentations 3:22-23

“Start a journal of what God has done in your life. In the future, it will be encouraging to review what God has done for you!”

The Blessing in Being Robbed

Matthew Henry

Bible commentator Matthew Henry, after being robbed, wrote in his diary the following: “Let me be thankful. First, because I was never robbed before. Second, because although they took my wallet, they did not take my life. Third, because they took my all, it was not much. Fourth, because it was I who was robbed, not I who stole.

We Have Much for Which to Praise God

Bill Brinkworth

Psalms 113 gives God the glory and praises the Lord. According to J. Vernon McGee, this Psalm was most likely sung “at the Passover Feast, the Feast of Pentecost, the Feast of Tabernacles, and other feasts.” Even during this church age, all worship services and private devotions should also praise the Lord.

Repeatedly, in Psalms and other books of the Bible, praising the Lord is an integral part of worship. Commending God for what he has done, showing our gratitude, and giving Him credit for His works is so important.

I always wondered if more would praise God properly, would much of man-made false doctrines that cause wrong thinking and unbiblical religions, disappear? When He is glorified, the way He should be, most notions that man can live without following His commandments and without His help will vanish.

Praising God gives us the proper perspective that we can do little without His guidance and assistance. Giving Him credit is a humbling that admits we can do so little ourselves. It also reveals that we need Him and should rely on Him. He can change situations, heal broken bodies, mend shattered relationships, curtail sin, and do what we think is impossible.

Continual praising God for His goodness and deeds keeps our dependence on Him in focus. Praising Him reminds us how much we need Him.

“Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!” Psalm 107:8

Never Happy

Stennett

The discontented person is ever restless and uneasy. He is dissatisfied with his station in life, his connections, and almost every circumstance that happens to him. He is continually peevish and fretful, impatient of every injury he receives, and unduly impressed with every disappointment he suffers.

He considers most other persons as happier than himself. The person hardly enjoys any of the blessings of Providence with a calm and grateful mind. He forms a thousand distressing fears concerning the future and makes his present condition unhappy by anticipating the misery he may endure in years to come.