

## "A Psalm for Thanksgiving" (NASB)

There are certain things God has to say in Scripture that are telling commentaries on humanity... on just how wrong we are

### Leviticus 19:14

You shall not curse a deaf man, nor place a stumbling block before the blind, but you shall revere your God; I am the LORD. (Cf. Lev 11:19)

Have you ever known someone that could not say "thank you"?

- There is something not right with them—It's like they never matured beyond infancy
- Every parent teaches their kids when they have just received something to say "\_\_\_\_\_"
  - ("What do you say?")
  - We even let other adults condition our children this way

There is something not right with the person who can not/will not say "thank you"

When it comes to God and our relationship with Him, we seem to have this problem

So pervasive is this problem that in the OT God assigned certain people to give thanks and lead Israel in giving thanks to the Lord<sup>1</sup>

- That is messed up
- The NT has put us all in this position!
- Hebrews 13:15  
Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.

### Luke 17:11-18

- Why is this?
  - Why did 9 lepers go on with their lives and only 1 turn back and glorify God with a loud voice and fall on His face at His feet and give Him thanks?

Perhaps we have not suffered enough, glimpsed enough of life without God, felt the fires of Hell for a moment... perhaps we have forgotten?

- Were we not the sick, wounded, putrid, oozing, lepers
  - We have been touched and made clean by the Holy and Pure One!!!
- And if God desires an attitude of gratitude/thanksgiving, why do we withhold?

### Psalms 69:30-31

I will praise the name of God with song and magnify Him with thanksgiving.  
And it will please the LORD better than an ox or a young bull with horns and hoofs.

- Do you please the Lord in this way? (Positionally vs. Practically)
- Interesting how the Lord loves songs—cannot escape singing in the Bible
- Zephaniah 3:17  
The LORD your God is in your midst,  
The Mighty One, will save;  
He will rejoice over you with gladness,  
He will quiet you with His love,  
**He will rejoice over you with singing.**

<sup>1</sup> See 1 Chronicles 16:4,7,41; 23:30; 2 Chronicles 31:2; Nehemiah 11:17  
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## 1Thessalonians 5:18

... in everything **GIVE THANKS**; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

## Ephesians 5:19-20

(we are to be) ... speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;

**ALWAYS GIVING THANKS** for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father...

## Colossians 3:17

And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, **GIVING THANKS** through Him to God the Father.

## God's will for you in Christ Jesus

Why is it God's will for us that we give thanks in everything?

- (1) Keeps God in the right place
- (2) Keeps us in the right place
- (3) Keeps the devil in the right place
- (4) Keeps life in perspective

## Psalm 100

It was used in the Second Temple in connection with the sacrifices of thanksgiving.

- A thanksgiving offering was offered in gratitude for mercies received from the Lord
- v. 4 = This is how we approach God
  - v. 2<sup>b</sup> = פָּנִים is the Hebrew (Face to face--Intimacy)
    - **Thanksgiving** (v. 4) is a verb!

The opposite of thanksgiving is complaining

- Don't you love when people complain?!?
  - Your kids?
  - Especially after a gift...
  - I snap!
- God snaps
  - Numbers 11:1

Now the people became **like those** who complain of adversity in the hearing of the LORD; and when the LORD heard it, His anger was kindled, and the fire of the LORD burned among them and consumed some of the outskirts of the camp.

    - "Like those" (God's people are not like this! Cf. Samaritan in Lk 17)

## ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S 1863 THANKSGIVING DAY PROCLAMATION

The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God.

...

No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American People. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility and Union.