

Christ Reformation Church

Tillamook, Oregon

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O Give Thanks to the Lord (Psalm 100)

November 20, 2022

Sermon Text: Psalm 100

Scripture Reading: Col 3:1-17

Psa 100:1-5 A Psalm for giving thanks.

Make a joyful noise to the LORD,
all the earth!

(2) Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!

(3) Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

(4) Enter his gates with

thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!

(5) For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

Children do not enter this world with thankful hearts. None of us did. Giving thanks is not a characteristic of the sinner's nature. A large part of training up of our children is to discipline them and teach them to be thankful. Very few things are more upsetting than seeing a spoiled, unthankful child in action – UNLESS it is a spoiled, unthankful adult in action!

Unthankfulness is not only a serious sin, it is in fact THE sin which arouses God's wrath. Listen to Paul tell it:

Rom 1:18-21 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all

ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.

(19) For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. (20) For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

(21) For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Giving thanks to God is a key part of worshipping God. When we give thanks to Him, we are acknowledging that, well...we will see what we are thanking Him for as we look at Psalm 100 more closely.

Psa 100:1-5 A Psalm for giving thanks. Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! (2) Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!

Joy, gladness, and singing. These are elements in real worship. What do people do when they are joyful and glad? They sing. This is a chief reason why our worship of God includes music – and the Bible has MUCH to say about this. It is what the Psalms are!

Individually or corporately (as we do on the Lord's Day here), if we are really worshipping the Lord, the giving of thanks to Him will lead us to be joyful and glad. And here is room for much personal examination – Do we look forward to the Lord's Day? As we come here are we fundamentally joyful about doing so, or do we begrudge Him our time, our giving, our praise? *Serve Him with gladness. Come into His presence singing.* This of course necessitates a realignment of our focus *from ourselves to the Lord. Who He is. What all He has done for us.* In contrast, here is the “worship” of an unthankful, grumbling soul:

Isa 43:19-22 Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a

way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. (20) The wild beasts will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches, for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, (21) the people whom I formed for myself that they might declare my praise. (22) “Yet you did not call upon me, O Jacob; **but you have been weary of me, O Israel!**

Mal 1:13 But you say, ‘What a weariness this is,’ and you snort at it, says the LORD of hosts. You bring what has been taken by violence or is lame or sick, and this you bring as your offering! Shall I accept that from your hand? says the LORD.

Amo 8:4-6 Hear this, you who trample on the needy and bring the poor of the land to an end, (5) saying, “**When will the new moon be over, that we may sell grain? And the Sabbath, that we may offer wheat for sale,** that we may make the ephah small and the shekel great and deal deceitfully with false balances, (6) that we may buy the poor for silver and the

needy for a pair of sandals and sell the chaff of the wheat?”

One mark of a truly converted heart is this joy and gladness in worshipping the Lord and in loving the Lord’s Day.

He Has Made Us

Now, verse 3 is not only literally the center of this Psalm, but the doctrine that it states is largely the foundation of this joy and gladness and thanksgiving which characterize true worship:

(3) Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, **and we are his**; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

The KJV and the NASB render “and we are his” in a way that I prefer:

Psa 100:3 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.

At the heart of genuine thanksgiving, joy and gladness in worship, is this fundamental acknowledgement:

- The Lord, HE is God
- The Lord, HE has made us
- WE are not God, WE are not self-made
- WE are HIS people
- WE are HIS sheep in HIS pasture

A thankful heart worshipping God in joy and gladness is that of a person who has put away all false gods and confesses God to be God. And furthermore that WE are created beings, owned by Him, reliant upon Him for everything we have.

Consider again the grumbler:

Exo 16:1-8 They set out from Elim, and all the congregation of the people of Israel came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had departed from the land of Egypt. (2) And the whole

congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness, (3) and the people of Israel said to them, “Would that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.” (4) Then the LORD said to Moses, “Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in my law or not. (5) On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily.” (6) So Moses and Aaron said to all the people of Israel, “At evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, (7) and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your grumbling against the LORD. For what are we, that you grumble against us?” (8) And Moses said, “When the LORD gives you in the evening meat to eat and in the morning bread to the

full, because the LORD has heard your grumbling that you grumble against him—what are we? Your grumbling is not against us but against the LORD.”

At heart these were idol worshippers. They did not truly acknowledge God as God and the result was – *murmuring, grumbling, unthankfulness*. And were they a happy, joyful, glad-hearted people? Of course not.

Any person who is characterized by joylessness, by unthankfulness, by grumbling and complaining needs to take a renewed and searching look at the real state of their heart. Because these things are inconsistent with a heart that has been re-created by God.

KJV Psa 100:3 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.

Dwell on this at length:

If you are living as if YOU are the one directing your life, as if YOU are the one who must ultimately provide water, green grass, and peace in your life – as if YOU are not a sheep belonging to a Shepherd, the God’s Word is plain – you are going to be an unthankful, joyless, grumbling individual who knows nothing of gladness of heart.

Psa 100:3 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.

Many people know Psalm 23, but few really *know* it. A grumbling, unthankful person does not experience the blessings of the Good Shepherd:

Psa 23:1-6 A Psalm of David. The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. (2) He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. (3) He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. (4) Even though I walk through the

valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. (5) You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. (6) Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

“The opening of this Psalm has been compared to a trumpet blast that calls the worshippers of the Lord together from all the corners of the land....Solemn though it may be, when God’s own people come into His presence, joy should never be absent.” [H.C. Leupold, Exposition of Psalms]

And with that joy, thanksgiving will also come.

“What a rare privilege it is to be singled out from among all the nations and people on the face of the earth to be in a very special sense God’s people and His only people! No person who weighs this

fact rightly can remain cold and unresponsive.” [Ibid]

Do YOU know the Lord? Do you really know that He IS God, your Creator? Do you come into His presence joyfully because He is your Father and you realize that this is not true of the mass of humanity?

Eph 2:1-6 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins (2) in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— (3) among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

(4) But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, (5) even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— (6) and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the

heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

Enter His Gates with Thanksgiving

The Psalmist brings us again to even more reasons for thankful worship.

(4) Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!

(5) For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

The immediate setting of this is, of course, the tabernacle or temple in Jerusalem, but the principles for worship here are timeless. When we draw near to God, be it individually or in particular, corporately as a church body, we are to remind ourselves that:

- The Lord is good
- The Lord's steadfast love is forever toward His true people

- His love expresses itself in His everlasting faithfulness to His Promises.

As a result then, realizing and confessing these things, we worship Him this way:

- Enter His gates with thanksgiving
- Enter His courts with praise
- Give thanks to Him
- Bless His name

Does this mean that we are never to approach the Lord when we are downcast or when we are perhaps confused about what is happening in our lives? Of course not. Those are some of the very times we SHOULD draw near to Him, and largely to be reminded of truths just like the Psalmist sets forth here. No matter how dismal circumstances are, God does not change. He is good, His love toward us is eternal, He is faithful to all His promises. So that even in dark times we can:

- Enter His gates with thanksgiving,
- Enter His courts with praise

- Thank Him and bless His name

Let's review all 5 of these verses again in summary under two headings:

The Call and Command to Worship

- Make a joyful noise to Him
- Serve Him with gladness
- Come before Him with singing
- Enter His gates with Thanksgiving
- Enter His courts with praise
- Give thanks to Him
- Bless His name

BECAUSE – The Reason for this Worship

- The Lord, HE is God
- HE made us, WE did not
- We belong to Him
- We are His people
- We are His sheep in His pasture
- The Lord is good
- His lovingkindness is eternal and never fails

- His faithfulness is eternal – all who trust in Him will NEVER be disappointed

Now, think on these things carefully. How is it possible for anyone to truly KNOW these things, to truly KNOW the Lord, to be walking in faith in Christ and His Word, *and yet be walking regularly as a miserable, grumbling, unthankful person, devoid of joy or gladness?*

Satan works hard at darkening our minds so that the nature and character of God and the glory of Christ are dimmed. He floods us with the mess this world is in. He fires missiles of doubt at us which are designed to cause us to doubt God's Word. The world itself and our own sinful flesh cooperate with him in these assaults.

So we must keep constantly going back and rehearsing these truths about who God is and about who we are and what He has done for us.

Whenever we find ourselves grumbling, joyless, not singing or praising His name, if we see ourselves sliding into unthankfulness, then it is time for us to wake up, repent of these things, and realize that this is the enemy of our souls at work.

And if such things and attitudes are characteristic of us, then we need to take a long hard look at whether the real problem is that we are not born again. Because it is an impossibility for a genuine Christian go habitually live in joyless unthankfulness to the Lord.

1Pe 1:3-8 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, (4) to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,

(5) who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. (6) In this you

rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, (7) so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. (8) Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, **you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory,**

(4) Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!

(5) For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.