

We Can Be Truly Thankful

Text: Psalm 100

Introduction:

1. Perhaps you have become too accustomed to the blessings you have received from God.
2. Perhaps you need to be reminded as we approach Thanksgiving Day that there are some things for which you need to be truly thankful.
3. **Psalm 100** is a Psalm of **praise** and **Thanksgiving**.
4. This morning we are going to look at seven things in verses three and five for which we as Christians should truly be thankful.

I. The Lord Is God – Vs. 3

- A. In other lands and even here in the United States, people worship other gods (*which are idols*) that are not the *true* and *living* God. -- **Psalm 115:4-8**
 1. These idols are dead. Those that worship them are spiritually dead!
- B. But our God, the true and living God is very much alive!
 1. The Great God of the heavens -- **Psalm 115:3**
 2. In Whom is the only One that is due Glory -- **Isaiah 42:8**
 3. Setting upon His throne as King -- **Isaiah 6:1-4**
 4. The Great Alpha and the Omega -- **Revelation 1:8**
- C. Why should we be thankful that the Lord is God?
 1. It is He that answers prayer.
 2. It is He that protects.
 3. It is He that forgives and gives eternal life through His Son.
 4. It is He that says “*I will never leave thee nor forsake thee.*” – **Hebrews 13:5**
- D. No matter what goes wrong in your life today, the Lord is God!
 1. No matter who is in the White House, the Kremlin, or Buckingham Palace, the Lord is God!
 2. No matter how you feel, the Lord is Still God!
 - a. He is always in control.
 - b. He is sovereign.
 - c. Nothing gets by Him.
 - d. Nothing takes Him by surprise!

II. The Lord Is Creator – Vs. 3

- A. it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves;
- B. My life is full of obligations.
 1. But my biggest obligation is to God.
 2. One of the reasons that I am obligated to give thanks to God is because He is the one who has given me life.
 3. He is my creator.
- C. I wouldn't be here if it weren't for my wonderful God who created me.
- D. And the human body is a marvelous creation. -- Psalm 139:14

III. God Is Our Father – Vs. 3 - *We are his people...*

- A. When this Psalm was written it was the children of Israel who could say “*We are his people...*”
1. Today God’s people are those who are His children.
 2. Because of sin mankind is alienated from God. -- **Isaiah 64:6, Romans 3:10**
 3. But God in His love sent His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ to earth to pay for our sins. – **Romans 5:8,9; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4**
 - a. Jesus had told a man named Nicodemus in **John 3:3**, “*Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God...*”
 - b. You were born the first time into an earthly family.
 - c. You need to be born again a second time into the Heavenly family.
 - d. You are born into the family of God when you were born of the water and the Spirit in obedience to the gospel. -- **John 1:12-13, John 3:5; Acts 2:38; Romans 8:15-16**
- B. Christian, your Heavenly Father loves you.
- C. Christian, your Heavenly Father hears your prayers.
- D. Christian, your Heavenly Father corrects you.
- E. Christian, your Heavenly Father protects you.
- F. Christian, your Heavenly Father is looking out for you.
- G. Of course, this is another reason to be truly thankful!

IV. Jesus Is Our Shepherd – Vs. 3 – “*We are his people and the sheep of His pasture.*”

- A. Remember, our God is a triune God, the Trinity.
- B. God is our Father. God the Son is our Savior. When we name Jesus as our Savior in obedience to His gospel, He also becomes our shepherd. -- **John 10:11, 14**
1. What is the job of a shepherd?
 2. The job of the shepherd is to take care of the sheep.
 3. That is exactly what Jesus, the Good Shepherd does. -- **John 10:27-28**
- C. One of the best descriptions of Jesus’ activity as the Good Shepherd is found in the **23rd Psalm**.

V. The Lord Is Good – Vs. 5

- A. As a Christian you have a home in Heaven. *The Lord is good.*
- B. You receive an answer to prayer. *The Lord is good.*
- C. You get a raise in pay. *The Lord is good.*
- D. A friend finds Christ as Savior. *The Lord is good.*
- E. You have a faithful and loving husband or wife. *The Lord is good.*
- F. You have great parents and/or kids and grandkids. *The Lord is good.*
- G. You lose your job. *The Lord is good.*
- H. You are sick. *The Lord is good.*
- I. You lose a loved one. *The Lord is good.*
- J. Your spouse divorces you, your parents and children despise you. *The Lord is good.*
- K. The *Lord is good* no matter what happens to you.
- L. He does not stop being good.
- M. And He does not stop working all things together for good in our lives, even the bad things! -- **Romans 8:28**

VI. The Lord’s Mercy Is Everlasting – Vs. 5

- A. When it comes to God's mercy, His loving kindness, there is no limit.
- B. God's mercy or loving-kindness is at work in our lives.
 - 1. When *potential problems are solved*, God shows his loving-kindness.
 - 2. When He *provides guidance*, God shows his loving-kindness.
 - 3. When He *provides His peace*, God shows his loving-kindness.
 - 4. When He *gives us insights into problems or into His word*, God shows us his loving-kindness.
- C. His loving-kindness is **everlasting**.
 - 1. Some of us have lost Christian loved ones this year.
 - 2. God is still showing them **loving-kindness** in Heaven. -- **2 Corinthians 5:8**
- D. We too, who know the Lord, will experience His mercy throughout all eternity. --

Revelation 21:3-4

VII. The Lord's Truth (Faithfulness) Endures To Every Generation

- A. The word translated "truth" here has also been translated as faithfulness. The word carries the idea of steadiness of firmness.
- B. God is faithful to every generation of those who trust Him. -- **Exodus 34:6-7, Lamentations 3:22-23**
 - 1. Sometimes we get concerned for our children and our grandchildren because of the increase in wickedness and danger in our society.
 - 2. But God has given us His promise that He will be faithful to the next generation of believers as he has been to this generation and all generations in the past.

Conclusion:

- 1. **Psalm 100** has given us 7 reasons to be truly thankful:
 - a. The Lord Is God – Vs. 3
 - b. The Lord Is Creator – Vs. 3
 - c. God Is Our Father – Vs. 3
 - d. Jesus Is Our Shepherd – Vs. 3
 - e. The Lord Is Good – Vs. 5
 - f. The Lord's Mercy Is Everlasting – Vs. 5
 - g. The Lord's Truth (Faithfulness) Endures To Every Generation – Vs. 5

Harvest of the Heart at Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is the harvest of the heart
 After the fruit and grain are stored away.
 The quiet season of remembering,
 The moment when we pause to praise and pray.

"Count it all joy" (James 1:2).

Count your blessings instead of your crosses;
 Count your gains instead of your losses.
 Count your joys instead of your woes;
 Count your friends instead of your foes.
 Count your smiles instead of your tears;

Count your courage instead of your fears.
Count your full years instead of your lean;
Count your kind deeds instead of your mean.
Count your health instead of your wealth;
Count on God instead of yourself.