

## Why Should We Be Thankful? Ps. 100:1-5

*Thesis: To encourage us to be more thankful for the blessings that we have from God.*

### Introduction:

- A. There are numerous reasons to be thankful.
  - 1. Those who are married are thankful for their spouses.
  - 2. Those who have children or grandchildren are thankful for them.
  - 3. Many times, we take these things for granted; but we should always be thankful for them.
  
- B. Most of the reasons that people in the world are thankful are secular and superficial.
  - 1. We, as people of God, need to remember the true reasons to be thankful.
  - 2. While we are thankful for the material blessings, we are more thankful for the spiritual blessings that we have in Christ.

### I. We are thankful because God made us (100:3).

#### A. When God created man, He created us according to His image.

- 1. Throughout Genesis 1, we read of the creation of the world.
  - a. Notice the creation.
    - 1) Light
    - 2) Heaven
    - 3) Dry land, or the Earth
    - 4) Sun, moon, and stars
    - 5) Sea creatures
    - 6) Earthly creatures
  - b. After God created each of these things, He looks at it and “saw that it was good.”
- 2. It is only when God creates man that He does something a little different.
  - a. He made man according to His own image.
  - b. Gen. 1:26-27 - Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” {27} So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

#### B. Because we are created in the image of God, we should walk according to His will.

- 1. Ps. 139:13-14 - For You formed my inward parts; you covered me in my mother’s womb. {14} I will praise You, for I am fearfully and

wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well.

2. Eph. 2:10 - For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.
3. The purpose of our lives is to do His commandments.

## II We are thankful because we are “the sheep of His pasture” (100:3).

### A. As His sheep, God protects us.

1. One of the two main duties of a shepherd was to protect their flock.
  - a. When an enemy (wolf, fox, lion, etc.) came upon the sheep, it was the shepherd’s job to protect the sheep.
  - b. Because the sheep are defenseless, they need someone to protect them.
2. Today, God protects us from Satan.
  - a. By this, of course, we do not mean that Satan will never tempt us.
    - 1) Satan will always be there to try and get us to fall away from God.
    - 2) We do mean, however, that God will protect us by giving us a way to deal with the temptation and with the sin that may follow.
  - b. Christ protected us from sin by shedding His blood on the cross.
    - 1) This does not mean that we will not sin any more, but it does mean that we can cleanse our sins.
    - 2) Jn. 10:10-15, 18 - The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. {11} I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. {12} But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. {13} The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. {14} I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. {15} As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. {18} No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.

### B. As His sheep, God provides for us.

1. God provides us with what we need for this life.
  - a. Jesus promised to give us what we need for this life.
  - b. Mt. 6:33 (after speaking of the necessities of this world) - But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

- c. **II Pet. 1:3** - as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,
- 2. God provides us with what we need for eternal life.
  - a. **I Pet. 1:3-5** - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, {4} to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, {5} who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.
  - b. This, of course, was done through the sacrifice of Christ on the cross.

C. We should be thankful because we understand that we are the people of God.

### III. We are thankful because the Lord is good (100:5).

#### A. God is good because "His mercy is everlasting."

- 1. God has always been abundant in His mercy.
  - a. Mercy is not getting something bad that we deserve.
  - b. God was merciful to Israel despite their sins against Him.
    - 1) **Ex. 34:6-7** (When Moses received the second tablets of the commandments) - And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, {7} keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation."
    - 2) **Num. 14:18-19** – Moses reminds God of His mercy when He wants to destroy Israel for not going into the Promised Land.
    - 3) **Joel 2:13** - So rend your heart, and not your garments; return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness; and He relents from doing harm.
    - 4) **Mic. 7:18** - Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in mercy.
- 2. Today, God is merciful to us through Christ.
  - a. **Titus 3:4-5** - But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, {5} not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,

- b. **I Pet. 1:3** - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
- c. **I Pet. 2:10** - who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

**B. God is good because “His truth endures to all generations.”**

- 1. The truth of God has never changed.
- 2. God has always wanted His people to be saved.
  - a. God never wanted to send Israel into captivity.
    - 1) He sent them numerous prophets to warn them about the consequences of their actions.
    - 2) On numerous occasions, God told Israel that if they would repent, He would forgive and restore them.
  - b. Today, God wants to save us.
    - 1) **I Tim. 2:3-4** - For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, {4} who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.
    - 2) **II Pet. 3:9** - The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.
- 3. He has always told us how to be saved.
  - a. God did not leave us with no way to be saved.
  - b. He has given us His word which tells us what to do to be saved.
- 4. His truth is everlasting.
  - a. This way of salvation is not going to change.
  - b. God has told us what to do, and He expects us to do it.

**IV. If we are truly thankful, we will show it by our praise to God (100:1-2, 4).**

**A. This praise should be continually shown in our lives.**

- 1. It is not a one-time thing.
- 2. Our life is “a living sacrifice...to God” (**Rom. 12:2**).

**B. We must be thankful for what God has done for us.**

- 1. 100:4 – It is a command to be thankful.

**Conclusion:**

- A. We should be thankful for the material things that God has given us.
  - 1. We are thankful for our family and friends.
  - 2. We are thankful for the possessions that we have.
- B. However, we should mostly be thankful for the spiritual blessings that He has provided for us through Christ.
- C. When we put everything in perspective, we can be truly thankful.