

2130 - THANK YOU LORD - Psalm 105:1,2

PRELIMS. A bad moment for an atheist is when he feels he **should** be thankful but does **not** know **who** to thank! That feeling happens more often to people than we think. All of us know when we are 'fortunate', ie, when something has turned out well which might not have turned out well! Very often we do **not** give **particular** thanks to anyone!! We just **breathe a sigh of relief** and smile - and maybe say 'Phew, that was a near one!' We forget/ignore the fact that such an 'escape' was **not an accident**. There was a **cause/reason!** God!

Most people today are **unaware** that **God** is the one who not only **provides for** our daily needs, but also **protects us from** all the dangers of life. Most people just put good fortune down to 'luck', or 'that's life', 'you win some and you lose some'. They are **happy** about the experience, but they do **not** see God behind the experience!

Well, not so the Psalmist here! He is **full of thankfulness** for **everything!** For *all His wondrous works* [2], for *His miracles...* and *His judgments are in all the earth* - and he proceeds to **recall** and **enumerate** some of the many blessings Israel received from God. The Psalmist here, like David **believes** *I have no good apart from You* [Psa 16:2]. He was **aware** of God **behind every** Providence!

APP One of the greatest signs of a true Xn is his **awareness** of God in every **detail** of life. He relates/connects all events, circumstances, in his life to God's purpose and **call!** A Xn is aware of God **calling** him to some **duty** at **every** turn in life - to prayer, or service, or trust!

REASON WHY WE SHOULD BE THANKFUL

[1] **God is the Lord our God** [7] and He is **NOT a Despot**, like so many 'sovereigns' today! We should thank God that He is a **faithful, loving God!** What a **privilege!** What a '**safe**' place to be in - the hands of a **gracious** God! We have a God who we can **trust!** God, as a Sovereign, **could** do what He likes with us! Friends, God has **authority, power** and a **right** to do what a **Sovereign** is able to do - **anything!** *We live in a day when everyone has '**rights!**' Human rights, animal rights, prisoners rights, protestors rights, gay rights - they all qualify in our culture for their rights - that is, everyone

except God! You don't hear much of God's rights today, do you?

Do you know what a Sovereign has a right to do? A Sovereign has a right to do **anything he has the power to do!** There is no Superior, or Authority over a Sovereign to force him change his mind. He can do what he likes! **APP** Just as you/I have **squashed an insect** which crawled over our desk, and did **no harm** to us, so a Sovereign could do that to us! **God** has **power** wipe us out! Who is to **stop** Him?

Now suppose a Sovereign was **offended** and **insulted** by one of His own creatures - a Sovereign **would** very likely extinguish that creature! **We** all do that regularly with **wasps** and **flies** that **annoy** and **sting** us! *The point is that God, as a Sovereign **has been greatly offended** by **our self-centredness** and **sinfulness!** Yet God has **not dealt** with us as we have sinned! *He does **not deal** with us according to our sins, **nor repay us** according to our iniquities* [Psa 103:10]

That is great cause for **thankfulness!** Even Xns have taken God's patience, kindness, goodness **for granted!** We have become **complacent** and **assume** we are **entitled** to all the blessings we enjoy in life. The truth is that we, as a race, have **forfeited** our right to **every good thing** by our denial of, and sinning against, God. Our **unbelief** in God is an **affront** to Him. We've broken covenant with God, yet *He has filled our houses with **good things*** [Eliphaz in Job 22:18] *We must give thanks that **HE**, the God of the Bible, and **not** some **other** Sovereign or **Despot**, is our Lord and God! *So we can therefore **EXPECT** not only **fairness/justice**, but **forgiveness /love!**

[2] Every Day we Enjoy His Blessings! Something good comes our way each day. When we are hungry we go to the **fridge!** When we are thirsty, we go to the **tap!** When we are tired we go to **bed!** When sick, we go to the **doctor!** They are all there for us - **waiting** to be **used!** That, dear friends is because of **God's love** to us - we ought to be **thankful** for these things - because everyone (even in the UK) does **not** have that. We really do not deserve our daily bread! **Why** did Jesus teach us to pray *Give us this day our daily bread?* Because not even every Xn in the world has daily bread! TV screens show us that! What made the difference between your/my fridge and the child scampering for a grain of rice? The kindness of God to you/me.

So - to have **food** all spread out on the table when you come home from work, how lovely, how wonderful! This is a **gift** from **God!** Yes, you **thank** your **wife** for preparing it, but it is a gift from God! It is specially wonderful when we consider: When man fell, he lost not only the **'right'** to **good** things, but also to **'necessary'** things! Food is a necessity! Food **sustains** us and keeps us alive. Thus the history of mankind is often a history of struggle for the **necessities** of life. Primitive man lived by hunting and fishing for food and water. He had to be constantly **alert** for opportunities to catch game, pick fruit. As God said *by the sweat of your face you shall eat bread* [Gen 3:19]

Can you remember when you last had **nothing** to eat? When did you last genuinely **worry** that you **would** have nothing to eat? There **are** people **today** who have nothing to eat! There **are far more deserving people** in the world than you/I who are **without** food! So how **thankful WE** should be for the daily benefits of food, clothing - and **all because of Jesus Christ's** payment of the **debt of sin!**

[3] **He has Made Wonderful Promises - and Keeps Them - He remembered His holy promise - He remembers His covenant forever** [8, 42] Our God is the God of **second chances!** **Margaret Thatcher**, says she was betrayed by members of her own Party/ Cabinet **conspired** and forced her to resign! 'I was sick at heart. I could have resisted the opposition of opponents and potential rivals and even respected them for it; but what grieved me was the desertion of those I had considered friends and allies and the weasel words whereby they had transmuted their betrayal into frank advice and concern for my fate' [p855] She said she would **never forgive them!** Well, God **expected** us to be **His friends**, but how we betrayed Him - and yet He has not written us off - God **IS prepared to forgive us!** *He remembers His covenant forever....He remembered His holy promise to forgive repentant sinners! He is faithful/just to forgive us our sins + forgiving one another, as God in X forgave you!*

After man's disobedience against God, He made **another covenant** and many more wonderful promises! He even provided another **Person to represent us** instead of Adam who couldn't fall! Someone who was infallible and could not fail in keeping the covenant! **Jesus**

is *the guarantor of a better covenant* [Heb 8:6, 7:22] God is the God of second, third, fourth chances...There are as many chances as there are many offers of the gospel! How **thankful** - for **Jesus Christ!**

HOW CAN WE BEST BE THANKFUL?

If you/I have received blessings, as we have, God **expects a response!** The response of **thankfulness!** Ie, the belief that all the good we have, is from Him - because He **appointed it** for us!

Three ways to show your faith [1] **Deliberately recall** and give **thanks** for the great things God has done in your life! **Remember the wondrous works that God has done** [5]. This Psalm is spoken to **believers**, the **offspring of Abraham...children of Jacob, His chosen ones** [6] **Every Xn** has experienced some wonderful mercy from God. Unless we **see** God as the **source** of each blessing we are not truly thankful! Thankfulness is **not** simply a **happy feeling** that we will not go hungry! Thankfulness is **recognising** God's love **to you** in **particular** and **appointing** good things for you specifically, and **arranging** for it to happen in history - for your comfort and joy. Thankfulness is recognising that **every perfect gift is from above...**

[2] By **making known the deeds of the Lord...tell of all His wondrous works** [1,2] If you have received blessings, be sure to **tell others** of it! **Tell others** about the great God that you have. Like the 4 Lepers who found the spoil, *We do not right...we remain silent!* We must **inform/educate/instil/remind** people, children, adults, of the **good** things that we **do have** - which in fact have come from God.

[3] **Sing to God and Rejoice! Sing to Him, sing praises to Him...let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice"** [2,3] Have you ever deliberately sung **to the Lord**? Mothers sing lullabies to their babies. We sing in the car, in the bath, in the kitchen - do we sing to God a song of love and thankfulness! Yes, I am sure we do. Well, lets do it **more often** and **more meaningful**. Let us deliberately rejoice in the Lord. *He brought His people out with joy, His chosen ones with singing* [43]. *As God has been kind to us, let us be kind to others in need, especially on this Harvest Thanksgiving Day. The Psalmist was serious when he said *Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous ...shout for joy, all you upright in heart!* [Psa 32:11]