

THE ELEMENTS OF TRUE THANKSGIVING
1 CHRONICLES 16:7-36

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INTRODUCTION

Vs 4 Certain Levites were appointed to give continual praise and thanks to God.

However, all of God's people should give praise and thanks to God. It is not good enough that we appoint others to offer praise and thanks for us. We must actively be involved in this activity ourselves.

Praise and Thanksgiving should be a regular part of our lives, not reserved only for celebrations and special days.

If we make a habit of offering praise to God and giving thanks to God continually, then we will find that we won't take his blessings for granted.

There are several elements of TRUE THANKSGIVING revealed in these verses:

I. THE FIRST ELEMENT OF TRUE THANKSGIVING IS TO REMEMBER THE MARVELOUS WORKS THAT GOD HAS DONE!

A. Remember His Wonders.(Vs 12) A "wonder" is "a miracle."

1. The Wonder Of His Creation!

Psalm 8:1—"LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens."

Psalm 8:3-4—"When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?"

2. The Wonder Of His Coming!

Isaiah 7:14—"Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

"Immanuel" = "God with us."

The Wonder Of His Creation...His Coming...

3. The Wonder Of His Compassion! (i.e. His Love)

Listen to some of the words of the hymn:

"The Love Of God" by Frederick Lehmann

*The Love of God is greater far than tongue or pen can ever tell;
It goes beyond the highest star, and reaches to the lowest hell;*

*"Could we with ink the ocean fill, and were the skies of parchment made;
Were every stalk on earth a quill, and every man a scribe by trade;
To write the love of God above would drain the ocean dry;
Nor could the scroll contain the whole, though stretched from sky to sky."*

Ephesians 3:19—"...to know **the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge...**"

Romans 5:6-8—"For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

John 15:13—"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

Romans 5:20—"But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:"

Ephesians 1:6-8—"To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. {7} In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; {8} Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;"

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Ephesians 2:4-7—“But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, 5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) 6 *And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: 7 That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.”*

The Wonder Of His Creation...Coming...Compassion...

4. **The Wonder Of His Coming Again!** (1 Corinthians 15:51ff)

A. *Remember His Wonders!*

B. **Remember His Judgments! (VS 12-14)**

Psalms 19:9—“...the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.”

Psalms 119:7—“I will praise thee with uprightness of heart, when I shall have learned thy righteous judgments.”

Psalms 119:62—“At midnight I will rise to give thanks unto thee because of thy righteous judgments.”

*Romans 2:2—“But we are sure that **the judgment of God is according to truth. . .**”*

His judgments are described in scripture as “good”, “right”, and “true”.

*Job 23:10—“But **he knoweth the way that I take:** when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.”*

C. **Remember His Covenant! (i.e. His Word!) (VS 15-22)**

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II. **THE SECOND ELEMENT OF TRUE THANKSGIVING IS TO TELL OTHERS ABOUT WHAT GOD HAS DONE!** (VS 8-9; 23-25)

The basis of praise is declaring God’s character and attributes in the presence of others!

When we recognize and affirm God’s goodness, we are holding up His perfect moral nature for all to see!

Praise benefits us because it takes our minds off of our problems and our needs and focuses on God’s power, mercy, majesty, and love.

A. **We Are To Make Known His Deeds Among The People!** (Vs 8)

Psalms 67:1-3—“God be merciful unto us, and bless us; and cause his face to shine upon us; Selah. {2} That thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations. {3} Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee.”

Psalms 78:4-6—“We will not hide them from their children, showing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done. {5} For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children: {6} That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children:”

B. **We Are To Talk Of All His Wondrous Works! (Vs 9)**

Psalms 107:2—“Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy;”

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Psalms 145:4-7— “One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts. {5} I will speak of the glorious honour of thy majesty, and of thy wondrous works. {6} And men shall speak of the might of thy terrible acts: and I will declare thy greatness. {7} They shall abundantly utter the memory of thy great goodness, and shall sing of thy righteousness.”

C. We Are To Show Forth From Day To Day His Salvation! (Vs 23)

Psalms 40:10—“I have not hid thy righteousness within my heart; I have declared thy faithfulness and thy salvation: I have not concealed thy lovingkindness and thy truth from the great congregation.”

Psalms 71:15—“My mouth shall show forth thy righteousness and thy salvation all the day; for I know not the numbers thereof.”

D. We Are To Declare His Glory Among The Heathen! (Vs 24)

Psalms 96:3—“Declare his glory among the heathen, his wonders among all people.”

E. We Are To Declare His Marvelous Works Among All Nations. (Vs 24)

Matthews 28:19-20—“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: {20} Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

REMEMBER THE MARVELOUS WORKS THAT GOD HAS DONE...TELL OTHERS ABOUT WHAT GOD HAS DONE...

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III. THE THIRD ELEMENT OF TRUE THANKSGIVING IS OFFERING HIM GIFTS OF SELF, TIME, AND RESOURCES! (Vs 28ff)

“Give unto the Lord...”

A. Give Of Yourself! (VS 28-29a)

1 Corinthians 10:31—“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.”

Colossians 3:17—“And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.”

Colossians 3:23—“And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;”

1 Peter 4:10-11—“As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. {11} If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.”

B. Give Of Your Resources!

(Vs 29) “Bring an offering...”

C. Give Of Your Time!

(Vs 29) “Come before him...worship the Lord...”

CONCLUSION

Are our lives ones of thanks-living or do we take the blessings of the Lord for granted?

Is each day a day of Praise and Thanksgiving or do we just celebrate it once a year?

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Have we given ourselves to Him first or are we living life for ourselves, selfishly heaping upon ourselves the blessings of God without giving Him credit He deserves for the good in our lives?

Have you taken time on a regular basis to REMEMBER THE MARVELOUS WORKS THAT GOD HAS DONE?

Do you TELL OTHERS ABOUT WHAT GOD HAS DONE?

Are you OFFERING HIM GIFTS OF SELF, TIME, AND RESOURCES?

These are the ELEMENTS OF TRUE THANKSGIVING! If they are not in your life how can you truly say that you are thankful to God?