

“A Psalm of Thanksgiving”
Psalm 100
(Preached at Trinity, March 25, 2012)

I'm supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord's Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I'll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. What do you consider when you consider the word evil? Or the word wicked?
Is it abortion? Perhaps homosexuality? Child abuse? Incest? Adultery? Witchcraft? Drunkenness? Pornography?
2. How about ingratitude? Not being thankful? God sees this as great wickedness.
Luke 6:35 – "But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil."
2 Timothy 3:1-2 – "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. ² For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,
Romans 1:21 – "Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened."
3. Do you see how God sees ingratitude as great wickedness.
 - A. Ingratitude expresses both pride and unbelief
 1. A man is ungrateful because he is self-centered – He feels he deserves what he has
 2. The lost man's unbelief blinds him to the recognition that everything comes from God – He does not consider His goodness and tender mercies
 - B. The greatest ingratitude is the failure to see the greatness of Christ
 1. That the Father would send forth His Son
 2. That Jesus would give Himself for us – even while we were yet rebels
 3. But when a person doesn't recognize his wickedness and guilt he won't see his need for Christ.
1 Corinthians 1:18 KJV - "For the preaching (λόγος) of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God." The word for "foolishness" is μωρία (moronic).
4. There is a marvelous contrast at this point. While ingratitude marks the life and being of an unbeliever the Christian is identified by gratitude.
Thomas Watson - "Take a Christian at his worst, yet he is thankful."
 - A. Thanksgiving is our identifying mark
Ephesians 5:3 – "But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks."
 1. You may boast that you profess religion - the devil transforms himself into an angel of light
 2. You may boast that you believe in God - the devils believe and tremble

3. But are you thankful? - While the devils blaspheme we sing forth the praises of God
4. We are grateful for all things
1 Thessalonians 5:18 KJV - "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."
- B. We are thankful because we know we deserve nothing
Everything we have is the result of His grace
5. And so we arrive at **Psalm 100**.
The KJV places as the superscription: "For giving grateful praise"
The NASB titles it "A Psalm for Thanksgiving."
 - a. The word is תּוֹדָה (*todah*). It can be translated thanksgiving or it can be translated praise
The NIV covers both bases: "A psalm for giving grateful praise"
 - b. **Verse 4** seems to solve the question as to how it should be translated. Here תּוֹדָה is translated "Thanksgiving."
Psalm 100:4 KJV - "Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, *and* into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, *and* bless his name."
 - c. Yet in the same verse we are commanded, "enter into his courts with praise"
6. The point is God expects us to be grateful for His marvelous grace and to express this thanksgiving with praise and worship.
7. Tonight I want us to feast upon this wonderful psalm of thanksgiving. It is the only psalm designated "A Psalm of Thanksgiving."
Psalm 100 contains seven imperatives designed to lead us unto thanksgiving
We'll examine it under two simple heads:
 - I. How shall we give thanks – **Verses 1-2**
 - II. Why must we give thanks – **Verses 3-5**
- I. How shall we give thanks – **Verses 1-2**
 - A. We are to give thanks through hearty expressions of praise
(*The First Imperative*)
Psalm 100:1 KJV - "Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands."
 1. We've seen this expression several times in the psalms
Psalm 66:1 KJV - "Make a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands:"
Psalm 81:1 KJV - "Sing aloud unto God our strength: make a joyful noise unto the God of Jacob."
Psalm 98:6 KJV - "With trumpets and sound of cornet make a joyful noise before the LORD, the King."
Psalm 95:1-2 KJV - "O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. ² Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms."
 2. God is worthy of all praise – a "Joyful noise" expresses the great exuberance that should accompany true expressions of thanksgiving and praise. The word literally refers to shouting.
Psalm 98:4 NAS - "Shout joyfully to the LORD"
 3. The Psalmist describes this praise as a universal obligation
"Make a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands:"

- a. God's goodness is made manifest unto all men
 - b. Most translations translate **Verse 1** "All the earth" - אֶרֶץ
 - c. **Verse 1** is a call to all the people of the earth to recognize the great goodness of God and with one voice praise Him
- B. Serve the LORD with gladness – *(The Second Imperative)*
- 1. Gratitude is one of our grand motives for service. Our service must always be with gladness. We've been blessed as a congregation where people give themselves joyfully in service.
 - 2. The Psalmist declares "Serve the Lord with gladness!"
 - 3. The word for "serve" (עָבַד `abad) can also refer to Levitical service. The NIV translates it "worship"
 - a. Have you ever wondered why our gathering for worship is called a "Worship Service?"
 - b. It is a recognition that we owe Him, He doesn't owe us. We are to give ourselves in worship
 - c. This is the heart of Romans 12
Romans 12:1 KJV - "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is your reasonable service.*"
Romans 12:1 NAS - "*which is your spiritual service of worship.*"
Romans 12:1 NIV - "this is your true and proper worship."
- C. "Come before his presence with singing." – *(The Third Imperative)*
- 1. The third expression of how to express our thanksgiving returns us to expressions of joyful singing
 - 2. Worship without singing is no worship. And singing without gratitude is no singing.
 - 3. This third imperative is a formal call to worship – "come"
This is defined further in **Verse 4**
Psalms 100:4 KJV - "Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, *and* into his courts with praise"
 - 4. Public worship services are public displays of our gratitude to God
- D. So how should we express our thanksgiving to God?
By coming joyfully before Him in a full expression of self-sacrifice as He becomes the center of all things in our life.

II. Why must we give thanks – **Verses 3-5**

- A. Because He is our God
Verse 3 - "Know ye that the LORD he *is* God" – *(The Fourth Imperative)*
 - 1. He is our Creator - "*it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves*"
 - a. Our life is a wonderful grace from God
There is nothing in creation that gives us the right to exist
God does not need creation. He was not bound to bring life into being. He would have been perfectly fulfilled and infinitely satisfied with Himself without creation

- b. The first four words in the Bible are, "In the beginning God"
If it had ended there God would have still been God
 - c. Do you awaken each day with a great gratitude for the gift of life?
Is your heart moved with thanksgiving as you consider the wonder of life?
 - d. Listen to the heart of David
Psalm 139:14 – "I will praise thee; for I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made: marvellous *are* thy works; and *that* my soul knoweth right well." "Praise" - תָּרַחַ – can also be translated "to give thanks"
2. He is OUR God – particularly, covenantally
"we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture."
- a. The expression "Know the Lord" is at the very heart of the New Covenant.
Hebrews 8:10-11 KJV - "For this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: ¹¹ And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest."
 - b. We should be thankful above all men because God has chosen us to be His own
- B. Because God is worthy of all praise and thanksgiving
- 1. We find the *final three imperatives* in **Verse 4**
Psalm 100:4 KJV - "⁵Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, *and* into his courts with praise: ⁶be thankful unto him, *and* ⁷bless his name."
 - 2. David again calls us into corporate worship with the *fifth imperative* "Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, *and* into his courts with praise"
 - 3. He calls us to a heart of gratitude in the *sixth imperative* "be thankful unto him"
 - 4. He calls us to express our thanksgiving in praise in the *seventh imperative* – "bless his name."
 - a. We bless God by ascribing to Him the praise that is due Him.
Psalm 34:1 – "I Will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth."
 - b. the word for "bless" can also refer to bowing the knee. It speaks of high praise or exaltation.
- C. Because of God gracious character that David describes as God's goodness, mercy, and truth
David's exhortation to all men in Verse 4:
"Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, *and* into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, *and* bless his name."
Why?

"For the LORD *is* good; his mercy *is* everlasting; and his truth *endureth* to all generations."

1. Because of God's goodness – God has been good to all men. The Septuagint translates this word using the same word Paul used in **Romans 2:4**
Romans 2:4 NAS - "Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?"
 "The goodness of God"
 This goodness and kindness of God should cause such gratitude in the hearts of man as to lead them to repentance
2. Because of God's great love (רַחֲמֵי) – He has shown great mercy and love towards His people. He is worthy of all thanksgiving.
3. Because of God's faithfulness – the word the KJV translates "truth" means "firmness and steadfastness." It refers to God's faithfulness.
 We see the same word in **Psalm 89**
Psalm 89:5 KJV - "And the heavens shall praise thy wonders, O LORD: thy faithfulness also in the congregation of the saints."
 - a. God is always the same, never changing.
 He is always faithful
 - b. In this world that is full of constant change God remains our solid Rock. And it is comforting to know that every change that occurs is carefully orchestrated by God
 - c. Spurgeon: "A changeable God would be a terror to the righteous, they would have no sure anchorage, and amid a changing world they would be driven to and fro in perpetual fear of shipwreck.

Conclusion:

1. God is worthy of all praise and worship. From hearts of gratitude our entire lives should be an offering of praise.
2. We must never forget cease having our hearts overflowing with thanksgiving. We must never cease remembering the words of Paul, "In everything give thanks."
3. May God forgive every complaint that has ever left our lips. Truly every complaint is against God and every complaint robs God of the great praise that is His due.