

Psalm 118:1–14

Thanking, Trusting, and Triumphant Forever

Tuesday, April 16, 2024 • Read Psalm 118:1–14

Questions from the from the Scripture text: What command does v1 give? For what two reasons? Who should say this second reason in v2? Who should say it in v3? Who should say it in v4? What has the psalmist done (v5a)? What did the Lord do with his cry (v5b)? What did the Lord do in response? What has the psalmist concluded (v6a)? Therefore, what won't the psalmist do (v6b)? What rhetorical question does v6c ask? With what implied answer? Among whom is YHWH numbered (v7a)? What is this sure to bring about (v7b)? What two things are compared in v8? Which is better? What two things are compared in v9? Which is better? What had happened to the psalmist (v10a, 11a, 11b)? Like what (v12a)? But what will he do (v10b, 11c, 12c)? Like what (v12b)? Whom does the psalmist address in v13a? What had this one done? But Who did what (v13b)? As what two things does the psalmist have YHWH (v14a)? And what does the psalmist have in and from YHWH (v14b)?

What does the life of the redeemed look like? Psalm 118:1–14 prepares us for the opening portion of public worship on the Lord's Day. In these fourteen verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **the life of the redeemed is one of thankfulness, trust, and triumph.**

Thankfulness—His covenanted love endures forever, v1–4. It's not difficult to see the theme of the first four verses. God's kessed, His covenanted love, endures forever (v1b, 2b, 3b, 4b). It is the love that proceeds from God's own devotion to Himself, and which therefore proceeds toward those whom God joins to Himself in everlasting covenant. It is unconditional, because it is dependent not open something in the object of the love, or even in any circumstance, but entirely upon the source of the love: the Lord. And it is eternal because He Himself is eternal. The inherent goodness (v1a) of God, therefore, bends itself completely and eternally upon the objects of this love!

So, the objects/recipients of this love ought to give thanks! And this thanksgiving isn't just a condition of the heart; it is an act of worship among the covenant people. Why is there an Israel, a covenant people gathered from the nations (v2a)? In large part, to give thanks by declaring the truth about God and His covenanted love (v2b)! Why is there an anointed, ordained priesthood (v3a)? In large part, to give thanks by declaring the truth about God and His covenanted love (v3b)! And those who are in Christ have been consecrated to God in Him (cf. 1Pet 2:9; Rev 5:9–10). Why does God give an internal reality of fearing the Lord, to match these external/formal/covenantal realities (v4a)? In large part, to give thanks by declaring the truth about God and His covenanted love (v4b)!

Trust—His aid overrules all fear, v5–9. Men will fail us (v8b), even the best of them (v9b). So, whatever other helpers the Lord gives us in His providence, we must put our trust for that help only in the Lord Himself (v7a). For, it is by His help that we will one day look, in victory, upon all that threatened us (v7b). If the self-existent Creator is for us (v6a), then all creation could not succeed against us—and men are merely creatures (v6c, cf. Rom 8:31). Trust has a natural reflex: not fear (v6b) but prayer (v5a). And God's trustworthiness has a reliable response: answering (v5b). If you find yourself too easily fearful, dear saint, seek grace from God to develop your prayer reflex. It actually becomes difficult to tremble at the creature, when on your knees in godly fear before the Creator!

Triumph—in the Name of YHWH I will destroy them, v10–14. It becomes evident that we can only sing this song in union with King Jesus in v10a. "All nations surrounded me" (v10a) is historically Davidic language, but especially as a type of Christ (cf. 2:1–2). It is He Who destroys into fire enemies from all the nations (v12b, cf. Rev 19:19–21), though their surrounding be even like swarming bees (v10a, 11a, 11b, 12a). It is in Jesus that the Lord's strength becomes our strength, and the Lord's song becomes our song; we find Him Himself to be our strength and gladness (v14a). He is our salvation (v14b), not only because He is the One Who does the saving, but because what we are saved unto is dependence upon Him and delighting in Him. Lord willing, we will consider that more in the next part of the Psalm in v15–18.

If you are a member of the church, a participant in Christ's priesthood, or fear the Lord from your heart, what is a large part of the reason for each of these things? What do you declare in worship? When? How has prayer displaced fear as the trust-reflex of your heart? How can you seek this more (cf. Php 4:6–7; Heb 4:16)? In what ways do you know the Lord as your strength? In what ways do you know Him as your song?

Sample prayer: We give thanks to You, O Lord, for You are good. And we have gathered to declare to one another, before You, that Your covenanted love endures forever. We called on You in our distress, and You answered us. You are on our side; we will not fear. What can man do to us? Indeed, it is better to trust in You, O Lord, than to trust in the greatest of mere men. All the nations have raged against Christ, but by His blood, You have redeemed us and made us kings and priests to our God. So now, give us to worship forever and to live forever with You Yourself as our strength, song, and salvation, we ask through Christ, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP118A "Because He's Good, O Thank the LORD" or TPH118A "O Thank the LORD for All His Goodness"

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Psalm 118 verses 1 through 14. These are God's words. Oh, give thanks to Yahweh for. He is good. For his Mercy endures forever. Let Israel now say. His Mercy endures forever. With the house of Aaron. No, say Has Mercy endures forever. Let those who fear Yahweh now say, Has Mercy endures forever.

I called on Yahweh in distress. Yahweh answered me. And sent me in a broad place. Yahweh is on my side. I will not fear. What can man do to me? The office is for me. Among those who help me. Therefore I shall see my desire on those who hate me.

It is better to trust in Yahweh. Than to put confidence in man. It is better to trust in yahweith. Than to put confidence in princess. All Nations, surrounded me. But in the name of Yahweh, I will destroy them. They surrounded me. Yes, they surrounded me. But in the name of Yahweh, I will destroy them.

They surrounded me like bees. They were quenched, like a fire of thorns. For, in the name of Yahweh. I will destroy them. You pushed me violently that I might fall? But your way helped me. Yahweh is my strength and song and he Has become my salvation. Amen, that since this reading of Inspired and dinner and twerked.

The portion of this song that we were taking this week, falls out fairly easily into three sections. Uh, not just joined by theme, but each joined by specific repetitions. You can see in verses one through four. His Mercy endures forever, his covenanted love forever. There's not even a verb there.

Uh, you can see even in the new King James, our English version that we read the word endures is in italics because it's being supplied. The. Original is less grammatically smooth, but Uh, more abrupt and forceful and rejoicing and a greater identification between The. Forever aspect the ages there.

And his preset, his covenanted love. The second section versus five through nine. The theme is trusting in Yahweh and you can see that again the repetition in verse 8 and verse 9, it is better to trust in Yahweh. It is better to trust in Yahweh. But also verse 5, 6 and 7 are about Trusting in Yahweh.

In the midst of distress, and before, Um, enemies. And then in the third section, Uh, you have the quadruple surrounded me. Surrounded me and then twice in 11. Surrounded me. Surrounded me. And then in verse 12, surrounded me like bees, And then you have the triple In the name of Yahweh will destroy them.

The last part of verse 10, the last part of verse 11 last part of verse 12, And so we have these three sections. And this, uh, his Covenanted love forever. Section versus one through four. Um, Uh, describes the response of the Lord's people, the response of the redeemed as thankfulness give thanks to Yahweh for.

He is good. Um, And so, we have thankfulness because this steadfast love or his covenanted love. Indoors. Forever. This is what all his creatures owe him? He is Yahweh. The I am the Creator, the self-existent one, the one, who is independent? Everything else is dependent upon him? And so since his covenanted love is actually an expression of the goodness that is inherent to him in his self-existence.

All the creatures that depend upon him for his existence Uh, exist for the glory of that goodness. All the creatures that depend upon him for that goodness. Um, Oh him. Uh, All the creatures that depend on him, for their existence, ow, him glory for his goodness. The greatest expression of which Is his covenanted love to his people?

His people who have been loved from within the decree of God before the worlds began in the Son of God. Uh, and so this is the great thing for, which all creatures will praise him forever. You can even see the four living creatures and the great worship throng of Heaven and Revelation 5.

They join in the song that is really led by the redeemed because they say, for you have redeemed, Us by your blood and tomatoes kings and Priests A two-hour goth. So, all creatures. Praise him for his goodness because this steadfast love endures forever. This Their reason and one of the great ends of your church membership.

Let Israel now say His steadfast love endures forever. If God has gathered you into his holy people, And put the name of his Covenant people on you. This is one great reason. That you would declare is steadfast love endures forever. Um, This was the purpose of the officers of the church, let the house of Aaron.

Now, say the worship leaders, this is what Jesus in his great high priesthood which uh, obsoletes Aarons, uh, the priesthood of Aaron's house. And we're singing Psalm 22. The end of Psalm 22. Uh, this month and Our Song of the month. That joy that was set before the Lord Jesus and Gathering.

Uh, to himself from all the Earth. Who give thanks to the Lord for his goodness under the worship leader leadership of Jesus. As our high priest in Hebrews 2. Uh, he leads us in singing. Uh, God's prayers for his steadfast love. And so, our participation then in his priesthood and the priesthood of all believers, Exists for the Declaration of a steadfast love forever.

Among other things, but this is one of the great ends of it. This is what we do every time. We Gather. Not just as now a function of our church membership but as a function of our drawing near like the priests Drew near when we come in the worship, assemblies on the Lord's day.

And so, that's something you can pray as you sit in the Pew and are composing, your heart and getting ready and even by secret prayer, prepare for The worship of God and the few seconds that we get to do that between an empty things and recitations and then the beginning of the service, you could pray.

Oh Lord. Help me remember and know your steadfast love your Covenant and love in Jesus. So that my heart and my mouth will declare it now and the worship. And if not only then and we bled into this a little bit, not only do you have Covenant membership for which you should declare The steadfast love of the Lord being forever and this Priestly Drawing Near.

And gathering in the worship. Um, in in which you should Dedare. His Covenant and love forever. Um, but these are to be matched by a Spiritual living work in the heart. Verse 4. Let those who fear Yahweh now say, well, Uh what is one of the great ends of that work that he does in our hearts?

That not just then with the lips and not just inappropriate in propriety to Uh, the Covenant status, he has given us. But as an expression, Of the saving work that he's done in our hearts and Minds. We should say his steadfast law of his covenanted love. Forever. So that's the first part.

Uh, the life of their Deen should be one of thankfulness. Especially the thankfulness of declaring. Uh, the eternity of his steadfast love in his worship and then in verses five through nine, in that middle section. The life of the redeemed is one of trust. Uh, trust praise trust refuses to fear.

And trust refuses to trust in anything else I called on Yahweh in distress. So, trust doesn't Uh, grin and Barrett in distress. Trust responds to distress or by crying out to God. Um, With in our distress. Uh, trust then also refuses to fear It doesn't say, be distressed at nothing or be grieved at nothing or be pained at nothing.

But it does say be anxious about nothing. But in everything by prayer and supplication with Thanksgiving. With the response from the first four verses make your requests known to God. I called on Yahweh in distress. Um, our distresses are opportunities to Uh, see again experience again. By how he acts and how he responds that the Lord is with us.

Yahweh is on my side verse 6. Yahweh is for me among those who help me He might have and he has given us other helps. And other helpers. Who are with us, but the great one who is with us is the Lord. And he can never be taken from us.

You get married, your husband may die. At some point, your father may die. You may have other helpers who are taken away by Apostatizing or moving, or a life event or whatever it is. The Lord will never be taken from you, and he is Help. And that is why the section ends with this, double it is better to trust in Yahweh.

Than to put your confidence in any man or all men verse 8 or in the best of men, the most able And we, we hope and the implication is the most able and the most noble So, put your trust in the Lord alone. The sort of trust that is due to the Lord, is not a trust that is divided with others.

We trust in him to be for us. So that we will say with Romans 8, 31, If he is for us, if God is for us, who can be against us, Uh so thankfulness because this Covenant and love endures forever trust because he is our help which overrules all fear.

And then verses 10 through 14, Triumph. And this comes, especially in Union with Christ. Um, Because it is really about Jesus. That verse 10 is true. Uh, it was sort of true in a historical way of King David. It wasn't literally every nation uh on the Earth. Against King David.

But he had an experience similar to this because he was a type Of the Lord Jesus Christ. He was surrounded by enemies, the lord gave him triumph over them all. And in that he is a picture of Jesus, all of his enemies are being made a footstool for his feet.

And we see, especially Uh, in Revelation 19, the Gathering of all of his enemies from the four comers of the earth. And just as there are Uh, those who belong to Christ's out of every belong to Christ out of every tongue and tribe and Nation. Uh so also there are enemies from among all of the nations.

And yet. Because he is Yahweh and the name of Yahweh is displayed in the Lord Jesus and on the Lord, Jesus the great David's, greater son. Uh, to use the language or

ideas of Psalm 110. Also He will as the display of Yahweh in the name of Yahweh, destroy the enemies that surround him.

So that even though they surround him like a swarm of bees, In that Grant assembly that we see in Revelation, 19. They are all destroyed. With the sword that comes from his mouth, he is the one by himself. Who triumphs over all of his and our enemies. And indeed.

Fire of thorns quenching them. Corresponds to the picture. Of the, the Lake of Fire, the great fire who's burning will never end. Um, and so there is this Triumph that belongs to the Lord Jesus. But because we belong to God in the Lord Jesus. It belongs to us as well.

And the songs of Christ's Victory. Are the songs of our Victory and the strength of Christ's Victory. Is our strength. And the salvation. That Christ has accomplished is And Christ being Yahweh, the son He is our strength. Our Song. Our Salvation. And so we Triumph, In the name of Yahweh.

Christ destroys. All of his and our enemies. So, Very, very Basic at one level. What is the life of the redeemed? Like is a life of thankfulness. It is a life of trust. It is a life of Triumph. Uh, but as we understand each of those things, Thankfulness. Uh, in and for and through the Lord, Jesus Christ, trust.

In. Upon and through the Lord, Jesus Christ, Triumph in and by and through. The Lord, Jesus Christ. Yahweh in the flesh. It takes us. And he makes us. Thankful and trusting. And triumphing. Praise God. Let's pray. We thank you, Lord, for giving us such songs to sing. Especially as.

Uh, even the wording reminds us that they can only be sung. In Union with Jesus, Help us. By your spirit. Stir up our faith in him. That we will live lives of thankfulness and trust and Triumph. We thank you for worship times in particular. And how they, especially are times of thankfulness and trust and Triumph.

We pray that you would give us by your spirit to do so through Christ in those times. And shape the rest of our life by those times. For, we ask it in Jesus name. Amen.