

THANKSGIVING

Psalms 100

Introduction:

Genuine thanksgiving requires the heart to be involved. Biblical "thanksgiving" is an acknowledging and confessing with gladness, the benefits and mercies, which God bestows either upon ourselves or others."

Not all thanksgiving is sincere: Story of the little girl forced to eat her broccoli and say "Thanks" before getting down from the table. "But I have nothing to be thankful for she replied." "Stay there until you do have something to be thankful for" replied her mother. Silence for along time, then a little voice said, "Thank God I didn't get sick eating that broccoli, now can I get down?"

Some find a reason to be thankful who in our opinion have no reason to be thankful: A man was an invalid all his life, living his life strapped to a bed with life support equipment always hooked up to him was always happy. When asked how in the world he could be happy, he replied, "oh, the nights make me happy and thankful." Usually the nights are the longest and most miserable times for most people, why the opposite for this man? "Well, he replied, from my bed I can see the sky and all the stars and every one of them have names" and he began to name his stars. "But, there are not enough stars to go around for all my friends, family, and things I like."

I. SOME BASIC THINGS HAVE NOT CHANGED

1. God is still God. There is no God beside our God.
2. God has made us, and for a purpose - fellowship.
3. We (believers) are His people, His family - and He knows us personally.
4. We are like His Sheep - and God will care for us.
5. God is good - He has our best interests in mind.
6. God's mercy is forever - it never wavers nor ceases.
7. God's truth lasts for all generations - always the same for each generation.

II. LOOK BACK THROUGH THIS PAST YEAR

1. Has God blessed you?
2. Has God increased or enlarged your life?
 - in opportunities
 - in service to Him and His Church
 - in ministry to Him
 - in finances
 - in responsibility
 - in accountability

3. **Has God protected you?**
 - kept His hands around you?
 - from Satan's methods?
 - from Sin?
 - from Temptation?

III. WHAT DO YOU HAVE THAT SOME OTHERS DON'T?

1. **Can you see?**
2. **Can you hear?**
3. **Can you speak?**
4. **Can you walk?**
5. **Can you think?**
(Don't wait until you lose them to be thankful for them.)
6. **Visit a nursing home or a hospital or go to a funeral.**

CONCLUSION

1. **I am thankful for YOU.**
2. **Think, look around, look up at the night sky and begin to give each star a reason to be thankful and you, too, may run out of stars.**
3. **The God who has always delivered you and been with you in the past won't desert you today or tomorrow or ever.**
4. **Just think, the God who made our world, made us too, and for the purpose of knowing us and being a part of our everyday lives and will one day bring us from here to a place He is preparing for us there with Him and we will spend eternity with Him.**
5. **Reasons to be thankful? Oh yes.**