

Welcome To

Malvern Bible Chapel



A Psalm of Thanksgiving

Special Thanksgiving Message

Psalm 100

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November 18, 2018

A Psalm of Thanksgiving

Psalm 100: 1-5 (NKJV)

A Psalm of Thanksgiving.

¹ Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands!

² Serve the LORD with gladness;

Come before His presence with singing.

³ Know that the LORD, He *is* God;

It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves;

We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

⁴ Enter into His gates with thanksgiving,

And into His courts with praise.

Be thankful to Him, *and* bless His name.

⁵ For the LORD *is* good;

His mercy *is* everlasting,

And His truth *endures* to all generations.

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Introduction:

- There are 150 Psalms (the Hebrew hymnal), but Psalm 100 is the only one with the inspired title (part of the Hebrew text) “A Psalm of Thanksgiving”. What better text to use today when we are celebrating Thanksgiving at MBC!
- Numerous other Psalms mention many reasons why we should be thankful (such as Psalm 107, loved so much by the early Pilgrims), or that even use the word “thanksgiving” (Psalm 95:2), but this is the only one with this inspired title.
- This Psalm has frequently been put to music. Since 1561 in the Geneva Psalter, and a little later in the Scottish Psalter of 1635, this “Old Hundredth” has been sung for 4 centuries in English. It is in our grey hymn book (#20, #625).

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Body of Lesson:

The analysis of this Psalm 100 is based on 7 imperatives (commands) that are mentioned (James Boice, using the NIV). It also includes 2 explanations (midway and at the end) about why we should give thanks.

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Psalm 100: 1-5 (NIV)

A psalm. For giving grateful praise.

¹ **Shout** for joy to the LORD, all the earth.

² **Worship** the LORD with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.

³ **Know** that the LORD is God.

It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

⁴ **Enter** his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;

give thanks to him and **praise** his name.

⁵ For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.

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Body of Lesson:

The analysis of this Psalm 100 is based on 7 imperatives (commands) that are mentioned (James Boice, using the NIV). It also includes 2 explanations (midway and at the end) about why we should give thanks.

Three ways to give thanks (which emphasize our personal verbal witness, our humanitarian activity, and our worship):

1. Shout (Make a joyful shout to the LORD, NKJV) (v.1).

LORD = Jehovah or Yahweh, the covenant name of God who hates sin but loves the sinner. When we get a full appreciation for who He is and what He has done, it can only lead to worship! Be careful—that may mean being loud in our joyful appreciation of just being with God!

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2. Worship (Serve the LORD with gladness, NKJV) (v.2a).
Worship is not just what we do on a Sunday morning, but the outworking of our salvation by what we do every day. That should involve meeting the needs of others done as an act of worship to God (see **Matt. 25:34-40**). You don't have to go to the foreign mission field to do this!

3. Come (Come before His presence with singing, NKJV) (v.2b).
In the OT believers came to Jerusalem to worship in His Temple. Today we are the temple of the Holy Spirit and we should come together with others in the family of God to unitedly worship God. The author of Hebrews encourages us to come together for mutual edification and worship (Heb. 10:19-25). Verse 25 says, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

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4. **Know** (Know that the LORD, He is God, NKVJ) (v.3).

We need to know who we are worshipping! Paul wrote to the Romans from his apartment in Corinth. When he visited Athens the Greeks there had been worshipping “an unknown god”. But when he stood on Mars hill to address them, he said, “the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you.” (Acts 17:23) He made known to them the good news of salvation by the true God.

David says that there are two things we must know about God:

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- **He is our creator** (He made us and not we ourselves). (Psalm 139)
If we do not acknowledge God as Creator, then we make ourselves to be our creators. That is the appeal of the theory of evolution (which is not based on scientific fact)—it does away with the need for God. We have no need to thank our god for being our creator. We just can be proud of ourselves and what we have accomplished. We become a “self-made man who worships his creator”!
- **He is our redeemer** (We are His people and the sheep of His pasture). It is hard not to think of David as a shepherd as we read this (Psalm 23). Also we are reminded of how Jesus explained this to his disciples (**John 10:11-12, 14-16**). No one should be more thankful to God than the sheep who are cared for by the Good Shepherd. Also, if He made us and paid the price to redeem us to be His people, the implication is that we are His to do with as seems best to Him. It also means that we are eternally secure in Him (**Hebrews 13:5; Romans 8:38-39**). This is something to thank Him for! ***He has both made us and remade us!***

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Invitation to thank God:

5. **Enter** (Enter His gates with thanksgiving, NKJV) (v.4a).

This is not our personal devotions to thank God, but it is in the place He designated to worship together. There is a special aspect of thanksgiving that involves the whole body, and not just individuals.

6. **Give thanks** (Be thankful to Him, NKVJ) (v.4b).

Encourage others to come with you and give thanks to God.

7. **Praise** (Bless His name, NKJV) (v.4c).

Likewise, praise Him together, enumerate His many blessings—don't forget any (see **Psalm 103:1-5; 17-22**).

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Why should we thank God? (v.5, similar to v.3, but the emphasis is on our corporate gathering to thank and praise God together). This verse tells us three things about God:

- **God is good** (For the LORD is good;) (v.5a, NKJV).
God is a shortened form of “good”. Everything about God is good, as opposed to the heathen gods. The gospel is the good news about God’s salvation.
- **God is love** (His mercy is everlasting,) (v.5b, NKJV).
We already saw in v.1 that the LORD = Jehovah or Yahweh, the covenant name of God who hates sin but loves the sinner. Because of God’s love He does not give us what we deserve (def. of **mercy**) as a result of our sin (which is death), but because of His love He instead gives us what we don’t deserve (def. of **grace**) (which is eternal life)—and His love, mercy and grace are everlasting!

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- **God is faithful** (His truth endures to all generations.) (v.5c, NKJV). In the midst of a rapidly changing world it is comforting to know that God Himself is unchanging. He will always be good. He will always be loving and merciful. Has anyone ever had greater reason to thank God than we who are His redeemed people, who know Him not only as our Creator but also as our loving shepherd and Lord?

Then let us joyously shout as we enter the doors of this building with our thanksgiving and stand in this sanctuary with our praise; let us give thanks to Him and praise His name. For the Lord *is* good; His mercy *is* everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations.

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Application:

1. No matter how we give thanks to God individually, it should be joyful!
2. We all should give thanks to God because He is our Creator and our Redeemer!
3. Whenever we give thanks to God corporately, remember His attributes (His goodness, His love, His faithfulness)!

Doxology:

Sing #625 in grey book (tune is to “Old Hundredth”).