

A THANKFUL HEART IS A HAPPY HEART

(Ps. 34:1-10)

Introduction:

1. God is great! And His loving kindness towards us makes Him even greater!
2. God defines good (Matt. 19:17) and love (1 John 4:8).
3. And man, as the greatest beneficiary of God's love and goodness, would be wise to spend his life thankfully praising God with all of his being.

Discussion:

I. Thankful for life and freedom.

- A. Gen. 1, 2.
 1. Gen. 1:26-31 = created in God's own image and given dominion over all His creation.
 2. Gen. 2:8-15 = God placed man in the perfect environment and gave him purpose/work.
 3. Gen. 2:16, 17 = God gave man choice/freedom, the opportunity to love.
 4. Gen. 2:18-25 = God gave man woman, the ultimate gift of love.
- B. Psalm 8 = David expresses for all mankind the thankfulness that man ought to have for God.

II. Thankful for loving forgiveness.

- A. Rom. 7:24-8:17.
 1. In the face of Rom. 3:23 and 6:23a, mankind stands helpless and condemned before God and His righteousness (Rom. 7:24).
 2. But we give thanks to God for what He has done for us in Christ (Rom. 7:25-8:4).
 3. And, we thank God (please Him) by partaking of His grace (Rom. 8:5-14).
- B. Rom. 6:1-18.
 1. We must never forget what God has done for us in Christ (Rom. 6:3-14).
 2. We must be thankful for the gift of God (Rom. 6:15-23; esp. v 17).

III. Thankful for hopeful expectation.

- A. 1 Pet. 1.
 1. The joyful recounting of what our God has done for us in Christ, and what yet remains (1 Pet. 3-9)!
 2. Remembering what has been done and focusing on what remains, let us continue faithfully unto death (1 Pet. 1:13-25).
- B. Heb. 6:9-20 = the awesome assurances God has given His people concerning eternal life (a promise, a vow and finally His Son!).

Conclusion:

1. Jas. 1:17 = a categorical declaration concerning God that all mankind ought to heed and constantly remind one another of.
2. Remember who gave us our existence, who gave us all the blessings we enjoy, who gave us the freedom to choose, and who gave us the forgiveness for our bad choices, AND! The sure hope of eternal life in heaven with Him! Praise Him all ye peoples!
3. Invitation.

MORE ON “A THANKFUL HEART IS A HAPPY HEART”

1. Thankfulness is a necessary and foundational/sustaining attribute of Christianity (Col. 2:6-8; 3:12-17; Phil. 4:4-7).
2. Christians will fall away when they lose their thankfulness (Rom. 1:21; 7:25; 6:17; 2 Pet. 1:9). That is why the man who meditates on the word of God day and night is blessed; he does not forget, he does not lose his thankfulness, and he will not walk away from salvation.
3. God has always given His people reminders, that that they could remain thankful.
 - Every animal sacrifice served as a reminder to be thankful for the substitution God was allowing/providing (realize that the Lord’s Supper replaced the animal sacrifice reminder).
 - The rainbow was to serve as a reminder of God’s wrath and grace (Gen. 9).
 - Circumcision was to serve as a constant reminder of the blessings of God enjoyed by Abraham.
 - Consider all the feasts, especially the Passover Feast and the reminder it was of God’s goodness (realizing that the Lord’s Supper replaced this for us-1 Cor. 5:7).
 - The pile of stones and many other “reminders” God gave Israel.
4. We Christians have the Lord’s Supper and the “unity of the faith” “once for all delivered to the saints”. That is, they have received all of the information required for them to never forget their God or His blessings. They have a well of blessings to draw from that will never run dry and will never leave them thirsting for what they do not have.

PRAYER LIST FOR WEEK STARTING NOV. 19TH

Those with long term issues

Louise Williams, Cliff and Rachel Greenawalt and their family, Ruth Vaughn as she lives with diabetes, and Harrison Waldron.

Those with short term issues

- ▶ Darrell McKee as he continues his recovery from an infection.
- ▶ Frances Davis as she struggles with some health issues.
- ▶ Our members who are struggling with sickness/colds/injuries.
- ▶ Our members who are traveling (Lauryn Corbelli coming home next week!).
- ▶ Our college students who are away from us in body, but not in spirit.
- ▶ Our leadership in the church; that they might be faithful, strong, and bold.
- ▶ Our community; that they may seek the Lord and we might be able to guide them into the truth.