

Give Thanks

Scripture

“Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for [He is] good! For His mercy [endures] forever. Let the redeemed of the LORD say [so], Whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy, And gathered out of the lands, From the east and from the west, From the north and from the south. They wandered in the wilderness in a desolate way; They found no city to dwell in. Hungry and thirsty, Their soul fainted in them. Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, [And] He delivered them out of their distresses. And He led them forth by the right way, That they might go to a city for a dwelling place. Oh, that [men] would give thanks to the LORD [for] His goodness, And [for] His wonderful works to the children of men! For He satisfies the longing soul, And fills the hungry soul with goodness.” (Ps 107:1-9 NKJV)

Thesis

Believers should always be thankful.

Commentary

The redeemed of the Lord are to give thanks and proclaim the mercy of the Lord. Of course, those who have been forgiven little will love little (Luke 7.47). However, I am sure the opposite of that is also true. If you see how much you have been forgiven, the natural response is great love out of which come great thanks.

Can you identify with the psalmist when he says, “they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and He delivered them from their distresses”? Has God delivered you? If He has, give thanks for His goodness and for His wonderful works!

A heart that is not thankful is a heart that is not redeemed. Paul tells us in the last days there will be many who are unthankful. “. . . [M]en will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy” (2Ti 3:2 NKJV).

However, those who have been redeemed should give thanks in everything as the Scripture says. “And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Eph 5:18-20 NKJV).

Listen, no matter what difficulties you must face today, be thankful you do not face them alone. Be thankful that God has given you an inheritance in heaven. Be thankful that someday there will be no more tears and no more sorrow. Be thankful that you have been redeemed from a torture not to be compared with the difficulties this world.

I know it is easy said and hard to do when you have pain in your lives, but remember what your prospects were before Christ. You were without hope destined for an eternity of pain and suffering. Now you are destined for glory if you remain faithful. Therefore, focus on eternity, and your heart will be filled with thanksgiving, and then you will shout for joy.

Prayer

Father, oh how you have loved us! I cannot understand the depths of your love for us. We were not lovable yet you gave your only Son that we might live. Thank you Father, and thank you Jesus for your willingness to face the cross. Forgive us when we are unthankful for we continue to fight against the flesh. Continue to keep us for that day when we shall behold your glory, and no longer struggle with sin, amen.