

Daily Bible Study

“Thanksgiving & Thanksliving”

Psalm 100:1-5

November 20 – November 26, 2011

THE LORD'S DAY –This week, as every year on the fourth Thursday of November we will celebrate the day we call “*Thanksgiving*”. For our lesson we will use as our text, **Psalm 100**. The Scripture here gives us great instruction concerning our attitude and actions toward God in this matter of “*Thanksgiving & Thanksliving*”. Read **Psalm 100:1-5**.

What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: Ask God to teach you from His Word this week.

MONDAY –If you notice in your Bibles this Psalm starts with a description which is entitled “A Psalm of Thanksgiving”. The Hebrew word is the word ***towdah*** which means “confession, praise, and thanksgiving”. This word is further defined as “giving praise to God and offer thanksgiving in a song of liturgical worship, or a hymn of praise”. The Psalmist through the inspiration of The Holy Spirit is leading us as God’s people in a song of praise to God. We are being called to worship the Lord. This is often done in corporate worship services through what is titled a “Call to Worship”. (Lord willing, we will discuss this more in the future as we attempt to order our own corporate worship service in a more biblical format). When we enter church to worship God we must remember that we are here to worship God, not to talk about us and all our weekly activities. We are often guilty of coming together merely for ourselves and our own interests and not to focus all our attention, heart, soul, and mind on The Lord. One of my favorite “Calls to Worship” is one you hear me often say found in **Habakkuk 2:20**. Read and meditate on it today.

What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: Father, help me understand that when I come to church with Your people I am here to worship You and not myself.

TUESDAY –The Psalmist begins in **verse 1** with the familiar words; “*Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all you lands.*” This is a call to all the inhabitants of the earth. As Matthew Henry comments, “When all nations shall be discipled, and the gospel preached to every creature, then this summons will be fully answered to.” Until that day we hear this command given which was illustrated throughout Holy Scripture. Some examples are found in John Gill’s comments on this verse: “...all the inhabitants of the earth, who are called upon to shout unto him as their King; as the angels did at his birth, the disciples when he made his public entrance into Jerusalem, the apostles at his ascension to heaven, the saints when the marriage of him, the Lamb, will be come, and both men and angels when he shall descend from heaven to judge the world; and such a joyful

noise or shout should be made unto him as to a triumphant conqueror, who has got the victory over sin, Satan, death, and the grave, and every enemy of his and his people, and made them more than conquerors through himself.” Read **Deuteronomy 32:43, Psalm 67:4, 68:32, and Psalm 117:1-2.**

What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: Father, we lift our voices and shout praises to You our Lord. Praise be to the Father, The Lamb Jesus Christ, and The Holy Spirit.

WEDNESDAY –We are quickly reminded in **verse 2** that it is not mere words that The Lord Almighty requires from us. The Psalmist says, “*Serve the Lord with gladness; come before His presence with singing.*” It is not in a slavish fear but rather with hearts and souls filled with joy and freedom, readily, and willingly we are to “*serve*” Him. Here we see “a strong invitation to worship God; not that God needs us, or any thing we have or can do, but it is his will that we should *serve the Lord*, should devote ourselves to his service and employ ourselves in it; and that we should not only serve him in all instances of obedience to his law, but that we should *come before his presence* in the ordinances which he has appointed and in which he has promised to manifest himself (v. 2), that we should *enter into his gates and into his courts* (v. 4), that we should attend upon him among his servants, and keep there where he keeps court” (Matthew Henry). Notice as the Psalmist declares and as Henry comments that when we come in praise and worship of God we “*Come before His presence*”. I refer you back to Mondays study and remind you that we gather to worship God; it is in His very “*presence*” we gather as His people. Read **Psalm 22:3, 25, 27-31, Ezekiel 43:6-7, Revelation 21:3.**

What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: Father, help me understand that You “inhabit the praise of Your people”. Thank You that one day I will live in Your presence without sin.

THURSDAY –To further comment on the matter of “*serving the Lord with gladness*” I would remind you that a true heart that serves with gladness is one that is without selfish desires, ends and views in mind. We fulfill this when we take delight in His person, and take pleasure in his service; rejoicing in Him alone, and as Paul tells us in the New Testament, we find our “boast only in the cross of Christ” not “having any confidence in the flesh.” We come before Him with hearts of praise and sing Psalms, Hymns, and spiritual songs (**Psalm 95:2, Ephesians 5:19**). We are to be full of holy joy and eager and “*glad to come to the house of the Lord*” (**Psalm 122:1**). It is an honor to God when we rejoice in Him and are glad in the service of The Great King. Our attitude in serving the Lord and coming to corporately worship Him should be an “*exceeding joy*” as the Psalmist declares In **Psalm 43:4**. Oh, how we need God to change our hearts and attitudes by His Holy Spirit and the Word.

What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: Father, change my heart to find my greatest joy and gladness in You. Be honored and pleased to do this in Jesus' name.

FRIDAY –**Verse 3** states a great truth that is sometimes overlooked amongst God's people. *“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”*. We are reminded to understand who it is that is Creator and Lord of all; God, not us. The Psalmist prays that God would remind mankind *“that they are but men”* (**Psalm 9:20**). Calvin comments on this verse by saying: *“He first reprehends the presumption of those men who had wickedly revolted from the true God, both in fashioning for themselves gods many, and in devising various forms of worshipping them”*. How we tarnish and devalue God when we forget His greatness and selfishly pursue for our joy other things rather than God Himself. It is in Him that *“we move, live, and have our being”* (**Acts 17:28**). We are beggars, wretches, and desperately wicked and sick unto death, yet praise be to God that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us and has made peace with God for us and now we *“are His people, the sheep of His pasture”*.

What truth(s) did I learn from God's Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: Father, thank You for the grace You give to us through our Savior, The Lord Jesus Christ. Help me “know” that it is You alone who are God and live a life that praises and honors You as such.

SATURDAY –As the Psalmist brings this Psalm of thanksgiving to a close we are again in **verse 4** commanded to *“Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise”*. This again is a reference to coming before The Lord in public worship. All of the commands of thanking God and serving Him that we have seen in this text are grounded in the fact that God is worthy of all we have and are. **Verse 5** states that *“the Lord is good, His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations”*. We and all men should ascribe blessing to our God for He is worthy (**Psalm 72:18-19, Psalm 103:1**). God should be worshipped and praised because His Divine providence is righteous and good regardless of how we or anyone else perceives it. And as God's people, we have been lavished with His grace and love, a love that is forever. It is said of Jesus, *“...having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end”* (**John 13:1**). Great is The Lord and greatly to be praised!

What truth(s) did I learn from God's Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: Father, Son, and Holy Sprit; You alone are holy, great and glorious, all praise, honor, and glory be to You forever and ever, Amen.