

Sermon: **"Give Thanks!" (Psalm 118)**

Date: **May 14, 2017**

One of the things that is so encouraging about the Psalms is that they give a voice to the people of God. It gives us language that we can use to talk to God and to pour our hearts out to him. We've looked at various types of psalms and each gives a different voice in which we can come to the Lord. In this week's study, we will be looking at a thanksgiving psalm. This is a psalm that calls us to give thanks to God. We are going to see three reasons for this in the psalm. We are called to give thanks for the steadfast love of the Lord. We are called to give thanks for the salvation that comes from the Lord. Finally, we are to give thanks for the renewal that can only be found in the Lord.

What you need for this study: Bible, Notebook, Pen

Individual Bible Study

1. Please read Psalm 18 and ensure that you have listened to the sermon.
 - a) We are commanded to give thanks for his "steadfast love." Describe this term further. What is meant by steadfast love?
 - b) In verses 5-13, how do we know that all the credit for the deliverance is going to the Lord? Find phrases in the text that support your answer.
 - c) In verse 5, it says, "I called on the Lord; the Lord answered me." What does this teach us about the relationship between God and his people?
 - d) Verse 18 says, "The Lord disciplined me severely." What does he mean by that? How can we use this truth when we are in the midst of a trial?
 - e) Verse 22 is one of the most quoted Old Testament texts in the New Testament to refer to Christ. He is the ultimate fulfillment. How does this verse describe Christ?
 - f) Verse 25-26 was used by the crowds as Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. What is the significance of them using this to refer to Jesus?
 - g) We are thankful for Christ renewing us. How does understanding our position before we are saved help us to have a more thankful attitude in this life?

Group Discussion Questions

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the sermon and the Bible study this week?
2. In his sermon, Randy mentioned that the psalms give us different voices in which we can come to the LORD in prayer and praise. Why is it important that we understand there are several different genres in the psalms? How can we use the book of psalms to help us praise God in the different types of situations in our lives?
3. How does the way the world views love differ from God's love? What should be our response to God's love?
4. When was the last time you thanked God for saving you? Why is it important that we understand and remember who we were before Christ saved us? How does reflecting on God saving you lead to thanksgiving?
5. As you pursue holiness, what are some areas in your life that you can be praying that God would renew you?

Accountability Question

Is there anything in your life that is preventing you from living in thanksgiving toward God? How can we pray specifically?