



## The Thankful Church Pt 2: Grateful for the Goodness of God!

November 8, 2020

### **Text: Psalms 107:1-16**

- Last week, we looked at God's Word on Thankfulness from Colossians 3. In that one chapter, can see the picture of **The Thankful Church**: focused on Christ with a heavenly perspective, pursuing personal holiness, grateful for deliverance and redemption, careful with how it speaks to others, unified as one in Jesus, kind, humble, patient, loving, and yes, thankful!
- We also put before you 11 propositions to look out for this month:
  1. Thankfulness is commanded: God loves thankful hearts!
  2. Thankfulness increases as we focus on Christ.
  3. Thankfulness comes from an understanding of God's grace.
  4. Thankfulness emerges from a prayer and praise filled-life.
  5. Thankfulness suggests a shift in perspective.
  6. Thankfulness flows from contentment.
  7. Thankfulness is a shield against sin.
  8. Thankfulness is a cure for depression and loneliness.
  9. Thankfulness is attractive; good people are drawn to humility and joy.
  10. Thankfulness is expressed in word and deed.
  11. Christians should be the happiest, most joyful, most thankful people on the planet, and this thankfulness should explode out of our hearts, show on our faces, and be manifest in our actions!
- Our November Goal: **That CRC would become a church bursting with Thanksgiving and Praise for all our LORD has done!**

### **Goodness definition and quotes**

- Charles Spurgeon: "Here is a standing reason for thanksgiving. Although we may not always be healthy, nor always prosperous, yet God is always good, and, therefore, there is always a sufficient argument for giving thanks unto Jehovah. That he is a good God essentially, that he cannot be otherwise than good, should be a fountain out of which the richest praises should perpetually flow."
- Goodness from the Webster 1828: "Kindness; favor shown; acts of benevolence, compassion or mercy."
- One word for *goodness* in the Hebrew is *chêsêd*, which means "*kindness; beauty, mercy, or pity.*" (Strong's)
- In the 249 occurrences of this word in the OT, we see the following top translations: mercy (137), kindness (40), lovingkindness (26), goodness (12).
- When you think about God's "goodness," think about His loving kindness and mercy!

***Psalms 103:1-5 (KJV) A Psalm of David. Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. 2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: 3 Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; 4 Who***

redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; **5** Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.

**Psalms 103:10-12 (KJV)** He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. **11** For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. **12** As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.

### **Thoughts on the Text:**

1. This Psalm is a picture of God's merciful redemption of His people, for which they (and we!) should be extraordinarily thankful!
2. First, the psalmist exhorts the giving of thanks! (v1) Why? For enduring mercy! Interestingly, the word for *mercy* is...*chêsêd*!
3. Then, he enjoins the unashamed declaration of God's grace by the redeemed!
  - "Redeem" from the 1828: "To purchase back; to ransom; to liberate or rescue from captivity or bondage, or from any obligation or liability to suffer or to be forfeited, by paying an equivalent; as, to redeem prisoners or captured goods; to redeem a pledge. To repurchase what has been sold; to regain possession of a thing alienated, by repaying the value of it to the possessor."
  - "Hey redeemed, don't be quiet about it; say so!"
  - **Romans 1:16 (KJV)** For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.
4. Then, the psalmist reminds the reader of Israel's time in the wilderness (vv4-7).
  - Homeless, hungry, thirsty, exhausted in soul, in trouble, and distressed! (vv4-6)
  - Yet they cried out to God and He heard them! (v6)
  - Not only did He hear, but He delivered them and led them! (v7)
5. Finally, Israel's captivity comes into view, likely in Babylon (vv10-14).
  - What a picture! Darkness, in the shadow of death; bound in chains and affliction! (v10)
  - Why? Because of their rebellion and scorn for God's Word! (v11) The word "condemned" is also translated in other places as "despised, provoked, abhorred, and blasphemed!"
  - This sort of attitude towards Scripture and the resulting sin always has consequences. The LORD "broke them with hard labor" (NLT) and left them without help. (v12)
  - But then they cried unto the LORD and He saved them! (v13)
1. **Verses 8-9 and 15 remind us to praise God for His goodness and His wonderful works! Why? Because He keeps delivering and redeeming His stiff-necked, rebellious people! He continues to fill our hungry souls with His goodness! Oh may we be thankful for God's deliverance too!**
6. William MacDonald describes this Psalm this way:

There is a common behavior pattern in the lives of God's people which can be summarized by two word series:

Sin	Rebellion
Servitude	Retribution
Supplication	Repentance
Salvation	Restoration

First of all the people stray from the Lord, walking in disobedience to His Word. Then they suffer the bitter consequences of their backsliding. When they come to themselves, they cry out to the Lord in confession of sin. He then forgives their sin and brings them back into the place of blessing once more. It is the old story of the prodigal son and surely no story is more familiar, more relevant and true to life.

Two basic facts emerge from the contemplation of this ever-recurring cycle. One is the perpetual proneness of the human heart to wander away from the living God. **The other is the seemingly inexhaustible mercy of the Lord in restoring His people when they come to Him in repentance.**

### **More Understanding of God's Goodness**

To understand God's goodness, we, from the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27), must attempt to grasp...

#### 1. His Unsearchable Sovereignty

**Isaiah 46:9-10 (KJV)** *Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, **10** Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:*

**Romans 8:28 (KJV)** *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*

**Romans 11:33 (KJV)** *O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!*

#### 7. His Absolute Purity and Holiness

**Psalms 22:3 (KJV)** *But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel.*

**Isaiah 6:1-3 (KJV)** *In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. **2** Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. **3** And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.*

**Isaiah 43:15 (KJV)** *I am the LORD, your Holy One, the creator of Israel, your King.*

#### 8. His Perfect standard of Justice

**Romans 1:18-32 (KJV)** For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness: **19** Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. **20** For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: **21** Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. **22** Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, **23** And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. **24** Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: **25** Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. **26** For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: **27** And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. **28** And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; **29** Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, **30** Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, **31** Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: **32** Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

**2 Corinthians 5:10 (KJV)** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

9. His Unmerited Favor, or Grace

**Ephesians 2:1-10 (KJV)** And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; **2** Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: **3** Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. **4** But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, **5** Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) **6** And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: **7** That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. **8** For by grace are ye

*saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*

#### 10. His Immeasurable Love for His Children

**Romans 8:31-39 (KJV)** *What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? 32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? 33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. 34 Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. 37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. 38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

#### **Other Scriptures that declare God's Goodness!**

- **Psalms 25:8 (KJV)** *Good and upright is the LORD: therefore will he teach sinners in the way.*
- **Psalms 31:19-21 (KJV)** *Oh how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee; which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men! 20 Thou shalt hide them in the secret of thy presence from the pride of man: thou shalt keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues. 21 Blessed be the LORD: for he hath shewed me his marvellous kindness in a strong city.*
- **Psalms 52:1 (KJV)** *To the chief Musician, Maschil, A Psalm of David, when Doeg the Edomite came and told Saul, and said unto him, David is come to the house of Ahimelech. Why boastest thou thyself in mischief, O mighty man? the goodness of God endureth continually.*
- **Psalms 73:1 (KJV)** *A Psalm of Asaph. Truly God is good to Israel, even to such as are of a clean heart.*
- **Psalms 86:1-5 (KJV)** *A Prayer of David. Bow down thine ear, O LORD, hear me: for I am poor and needy. 2 Preserve my soul; for I am holy: O thou my God, save thy servant that trusteth in thee. 3 Be merciful unto me, O Lord: for I cry unto thee daily. 4 Rejoice the soul of thy servant: for unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul. 5 For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.*
- **Psalms 107:1-2 (KJV)** *O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever. 2 Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy;*

- **Psalms 119:66-69 (KJV)** Teach me good judgment and knowledge: for I have believed thy commandments. **67** Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word. **68** Thou art good, and doest good; teach me thy statutes. **69** The proud have forged a lie against me: but I will keep thy precepts with my whole heart.
- **Psalms 145:8-9 (KJV)** The LORD is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy. **9** The LORD is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works.
- **Isaiah 63:7 (KJV)** I will mention the lovingkindnesses of the LORD, and the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD hath bestowed on us, and the great goodness toward the house of Israel, which he hath bestowed on them according to his mercies, and according to the multitude of his lovingkindnesses.
- **Lamentations 3:21-25 (KJV)** This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. **22** It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. **23** They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. **24** The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him. **25** The LORD is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him.
- **Zechariah 9:14-17 (KJV)** And the LORD shall be seen over them, and his arrow shall go forth as the lightning: and the Lord GOD shall blow the trumpet, and shall go with whirlwinds of the south. **15** The LORD of hosts shall defend them; and they shall devour, and subdue with sling stones; and they shall drink, and make a noise as through wine; and they shall be filled like bowls, and as the corners of the altar. **16** And the LORD their God shall save them in that day as the flock of his people: for they shall be as the stones of a crown, lifted up as an ensign upon his land. **17** For how great is his goodness, and how great is his beauty! corn shall make the young men cheerful, and new wine the maids.
- **Matthew 19:16-17 (KJV)** And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? **17** And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.
- **Romans 2:4 (KJV)** Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

### **Final Thoughts**

Praise our good, good LORD! So to sum up beloved...

- Everything that God thinks,
- Everything that God says,
- Everything that God does,
- Everything that God allows,
- Every plan that God designs...

...is Good! God is Good!

Last Word:



**Romans 11:21-22 (KJV)** *For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee. 22 Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.*

Like in Romans 2:4, we must realize it is possible to presume or “despise” the riches of His goodness. Although He loves us and we are sealed by His Spirit, consequences of sin are real. May our church never fall into this trap. As Paul said,

**Romans 6:15 (KJV)** *What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.*

God forbid. Let us live like we are Grateful for His Goodness!

**Romans 7:12 (KJV)** *Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.*

CRC, may this apostolic prayer be received AND manifest in us...

**2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 (KJV)** *Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power: 12 That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Amen!