



The Thankful Church Pt 3: Remembering God's many Blessings!

November 15, 2020

Text: Psalms 103:1-5

- Last week, we looked at the *Goodness of God* from Psalms 107:1-16. This Psalm pictures God's merciful redemption of His people, exhorts the giving of thanks for God's mercy, and encourages the redeemed to say so! The psalmist reminds the reader of Israel's time in the wilderness, her captivity because of her rebellion and sin, but also enjoins God's praise for His deliverance and restoration!
- We ended our message by declaring that *Everything that God thinks, Everything that God says, Everything that God does, Everything that God allows, Every plan that God designs...is Good!*
- Let us press towards our November Goal: **That CRC would become a church bursting with Thanksgiving and Praise for all our LORD has done!**
- Today, our goal is further exhortation in the Goodness of God. How? By intentionally remembering His many and manifold blessings!
- But first, a question: Why is David reminding his soul not to forget?

The Unfortunate Forgetfulness of God's People

- We are a forgetting people, are we not?
- Spiritual forgetfulness always results in so much sadness...

Deuteronomy 6:5-12 (KJV) *And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. 6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: 7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. 8 And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. 9 And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates. 10 And it shall be, when the LORD thy God shall have brought thee into the land which he sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give thee great and goodly cities, which thou buildedst not, 11 And houses full of all good things, which thou filledst not, and wells digged, which thou diggedst not, vineyards and olive trees, which thou plantedst not; when thou shalt have eaten and be full; 12 Then beware lest thou forget the LORD, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.*

Deuteronomy 32:16-20 (KJV) *They provoked him to jealousy with strange gods, with abominations provoked they him to anger. 17 They sacrificed unto devils, not to God; to gods whom they knew not, to new gods that came newly up, whom your fathers feared not. 18 Of the Rock that begat thee thou art unmindful, and hast forgotten God that formed thee. 19 And when the LORD saw it, he abhorred them, because of the provoking of his sons, and of his daughters. 20 And he said, I will hide my face from them, I will see what their end shall be: for they are a very froward generation, children in whom is no faith.*

Jeremiah 3:21-22 (KJV) A voice was heard upon the high places, weeping and supplications of the children of Israel: for they have perverted their way, and they have forgotten the LORD their God. **22** Return, ye backsliding children, and I will heal your backslidings. Behold, we come unto thee; for thou art the LORD our God.

Jeremiah 13:23-25 (KJV) Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil. **24** Therefore will I scatter them as the stubble that passeth away by the wind of the wilderness. **25** This is thy lot, the portion of thy measures from me, saith the LORD; because thou hast forgotten me, and trusted in falsehood.

Jeremiah 18:15-17 (KJV) Because my people hath forgotten me, they have burned incense to vanity, and they have caused them to stumble in their ways from the ancient paths, to walk in paths, in a way not cast up; **16** To make their land desolate, and a perpetual hissing; every one that passeth thereby shall be astonished, and wag his head. **17** I will scatter them as with an east wind before the enemy; I will shew them the back, and not the face, in the day of their calamity.

Psalms 9:17 (KJV) The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.

Psalms 106:10-15 (KJV) And he saved them from the hand of him that hated them, and redeemed them from the hand of the enemy. **11** And the waters covered their enemies: there was not one of them left. **12** Then believed they his words; they sang his praise. **13** They soon forgot his works; they waited not for his counsel: **14** But lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, and tempted God in the desert. **15** And he gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul.

- How many things has our LORD done (things we cried out to Him for mind you) that we have totally forgotten about?
- Well today, let us remember all His benefits!

Thoughts on our Text:

1. As the Psalm opens, David is “talking” to his soul; He is reminding himself to both praise the LORD (v1) and not to forget all God has done. (v2)
2. Matthew Henry wrote, “David is here communing with his own heart, and he is no fool that thus talks to himself and excites his own soul to that which is good. Observe how he stirs up himself to the duty of praise.”
3. David exhorts himself to give God His all...to praise Him with everything within himself!
4. One of the practices that assists praise is remembering what He has done!

- **Isaiah 25:1 (KJV)** O LORD, thou art my God; I will exalt thee, I will praise thy name; for thou hast done wonderful things; thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth.
- **Psalms 126:3 (KJV)** The LORD hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad.

- **Psalms 98:1 (KJV) A Psalm.** O sing unto the LORD a new song; for he hath done marvellous things: his right hand, and his holy arm, hath gotten him the victory.
 - **Psalms 105:1-5 (KJV)** O give thanks unto the LORD; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people. **2** Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him: talk ye of all his wondrous works. **3** Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the LORD. **4** Seek the LORD, and his strength: seek his face evermore. **5** Remember his marvellous works that he hath done; his wonders, and the judgments of his mouth;
 - **Psalms 150:1-6 (KJV)** Praise ye the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power. **2** Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness. **3** Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp. **4** Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs. **5** Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals. **6** Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD.
5. “Benefits” is from a Hebrew word that means “an act of good” or “a reward.” As we have seen, we all too often forget our LORD’s acts of kindness!
- The Preacher’s Homiletical Commentary says, “The grateful heart remembers benefits. But in depraved human nature there is a sad tendency to forget benefits. Too frequently injuries are treasured, benefits are forgotten.”
 - John Gill said on this verse, “Not any of them; the least of them are not to be forgotten, being such as men are altogether unworthy of; they flow not from the merit of men, but from the mercy of God; and they are many, even innumerable; they are new every morning, and continue all the day; and how great must the sum of them be, and not one should be forgotten; and yet even good men are very apt to forget them; as the Israelites of old, who sung the praises of the Lord, and soon forgot his works.”
6. So like David, let us say to ourselves, “Soul, bless Him and do not forget what He has done!” David lists a few things he wanted to remember:
- His forgiveness! (v3)
 - His healing! (v3)
 - His redemption! (v4)
 - His lovingkindness! (v4)
 - His tender mercies! (v4)
 - His good and daily bread! (v5)
 - His renewal of youthful vitality! (v5)

And if you read on, there is so much more!

So in an attempt to intentionally remember, as I thought about our church here in the year 2020, I made a list of eight things I believe are worthy of remembering that we might increase our thankfulness to and rejoicing before the Lord...

Let's Remember His Benefits...and rejoice!

1. Redemption of our Souls

- **Colossians 1:12-14 (KJV)** *Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: 13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: 14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:*
- **2 Timothy 1:9-10 (KJV)** *Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, 10 But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:*
- **Titus 3:3-7 (KJV)** *For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. 4 But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, 5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; 6 Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; 7 That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*
- **Point of Remembering: Through the blood sacrifice of Jesus Christ, we have been saved!** No matter what happens in this life, our victory in Christ is assured. May we never forget the mercy of God in sparing us. Remember: He called us! He Chose us! He changed us! He convicted us! He gave us faith! He justified us! He adopted us! He sanctified us! He keeps us! And He will glorify us!

2. Daily Sustenance and Shelter

- **Psalms 4:7-8 (KJV)** *Thou hast put gladness in my heart, more than in the time that their corn and their wine increased. 8 I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, LORD, only makest me dwell in safety.*
- **Psalms 145:15 (KJV)** *The eyes of all wait upon thee; and thou givest them their meat in due season.*
- **Isaiah 32:18 (KJV)** *And my people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places.*
- **Point of Remembering: The earth is the LORD and the fulness thereof. (Ps 24:1) Out of His bounty, our LORD continues to bless us with food, clothing, and dwellings.** According to Jesus, He knows we need these things, so we do not have to worry! (Matt 6:25-34)

3. Physical and Emotional Strength

- **Psalms 147:3 (KJV)** *He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds.*
- **Isaiah 57:15 (KJV)** *For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.*

- **Psalms 144:1 (KJV)** *A Psalm of David.* Blessed be the LORD my strength, which teacheth my hands to war, and my fingers to fight:
- **Isaiah 40:29-31 (KJV)** He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. **30** Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: **31** But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.
- **Philippians 4:13 (KJV)** I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.
- **Point of Remembering: In Him we live and move and have our being. (Acts 17:28)**
God alone preserves and strengthens our minds and bodies, and He does so every day of our earthly lives! Praise Him!

4. Family and Friends

- **Proverbs 18:22 (KJV)** Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD.
- **Psalms 127:3-5 (KJV)** Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. **4** As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. **5** Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate.
- **Psalms 68:4-6 (KJV)** Sing unto God, sing praises to his name: extol him that rideth upon the heavens by his name JAH, and rejoice before him. **5** A father of the fatherless, and a judge of the widows, is God in his holy habitation. **6** God setteth the solitary in families: he bringeth out those which are bound with chains: but the rebellious dwell in a dry land.
- **1 Timothy 5:1-2 (KJV)** Rebuke not an elder, but intreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren; **2** The elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity.
- **Point of Remembering: Man was not meant to be alone; it isn't good. (Gen 2:18)**
Therefore, God has given us family and friends. May we cherish them; they are gifts from the LORD!

5. The Local Church

- **Ephesians 4:11-16 (KJV)** And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; **12** For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: **13** Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: **14** That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; **15** But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: **16** From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

- **Point of Remembering:** We have a spiritual family! (Matt 12:48-50) Not only that, but we have been giving the gift of godly leaders to help us grow in Christ and serve the body! Christ is building His church! (Matt 16:18) We are God's building! (1 Cor 3:9)

6. Gifts and Talents

- **1 Peter 4:10 (KJV)** As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.
- **1 Corinthians 12:4-11 (KJV)** Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. 6 And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. 7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. 8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; 9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; 10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: 11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.
- **1 Corinthians 12:12 (KJV)** For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.
- **Point of Remembering:** We are all uniquely created by God and blessed with gifts and talents meant to be used for the upbuilding of the Kingdom of Heaven! You are needed! (1 Cor 12:21-22)

7. A Mission

- **Ecclesiastes 12:13 (KJV)** Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.
- **Psalms 57:2 (KJV)** I will cry unto God most high; unto God that performeth all things for me.
- **Psalms 57:2 (NLT)** I cry out to God Most High, to God who will fulfill his purpose for me.
- **Psalms 138:8 (KJV)** The LORD will perfect that which concerneth me: thy mercy, O LORD, endureth for ever: forsake not the works of thine own hands.
- **Psalms 138:8 (NLT)** The LORD will work out his plans for my life—for your faithful love, O LORD, endures forever. Don't abandon me, for you made me.
- **Point of Remembering:** We have each been given the benefit of a mission from the LORD (1 Cor 7:17; Eph 4:7)! He created us with a purpose in mind! Therefore your life is not meaningless; you have intrinsic AND practical Kingdom value! Bless God for using us!

8. A Vocation and Financial Resources

- **Deuteronomy 8:17-18 (KJV)** And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth. 18 But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.

- **Ecclesiastes 5:19 (KJV)** Every man also to whom God hath given riches and wealth, and hath given him power to eat thereof, and to take his portion, and to rejoice in his labour; this is the gift of God.
- **Philippians 4:19 (KJV)** But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.
- **2 Corinthians 9:8 (KJV)** And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:
- **Point of Remembering: Work is good and was created before the Fall! (Gen 2:15)**
Your work is a part of your mission. Praise God for your fields; see whatever you do as taking dominion! (Gen 1:26-28)

How to become more thankful through Remembrance:

1. Daily, look around and remind yourself!
2. Write down answered prayers!
3. Tell others of God's goodness!
4. Develop a higher view of the LORD's Day!
5. Maximize the LORD's Table!
6. Read the Scriptures Daily!
7. Sing and pray the Psalms!

At the end of the Psalm 103, David writes this:

Psalms 103:13-22 (KJV) Like as a father pitith his children, so the LORD pitith them that fear him. **14** For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust. **15** As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth. **16** For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more. **17** But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children; **18** To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them. **19** The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all. **20** Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word. **21** Bless ye the LORD, all ye his hosts; ye ministers of his, that do his pleasure. **22** Bless the LORD, all his works in all places of his dominion: bless the LORD, O my soul.

LORD, forgive us for being so forgetful! Help us to be a more thankful church by remembering Thy many benefits and blessing Your Name!

Amen!