

THE CHRISTIAN'S THANKSGIVING

BIBLE TEXT : Psalm 107:1-43

LESSON 47 Senior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD" (Psalm 150:6).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

Psalm 107:1-43

¹ 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;
³ And gathered them out of the
lands, from the east, and from the
west, from the north, and from the
south.
⁴ They wandered in the wilderness
in a solitary way; they found no
city to dwell in.
⁵ Hungry and thirsty, their soul
fainted in them.
⁶ Then they cried unto the LORD
in their trouble, *and* he delivered
them out of their distresses.
⁷ And he led them forth by the
right way, that they might go to a
city of habitation.
⁸ Oh that *men* would praise the
LORD *for* his goodness, and *for* his
wonderful works to the children of
men!
⁹ For he satisfieth the longing soul,
and filleth the hungry soul with
goodness.
¹⁰ Such as sit in darkness and in
the shadow of death, *being* bound
in affliction and iron;
¹¹ Because they rebelled against
the words of God, and contemned
the counsel of the most High:
¹² Therefore he brought down
their heart with labour; they fell
down, and *there was* none to help.
¹³ Then they cried unto the LORD
in their trouble, *and* he saved
them out of their distresses.
¹⁴ He brought them out of
darkness and the shadow of

BIBLE REFERENCES:

I The Praises of God Exhorted

1. His mercy merits our thanksgiving, Psalm 107: 1;
Psalm 103: 17
¹⁷ But the mercy of the LORD *is* from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children;
Psalm 50: 14
¹⁴ Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High:
Lamentations 3:22, 23
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.
Deuteronomy 6:7
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.
Titus 3:5-7
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.
Matthew 10:32
³² Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.
2. Praise Him for the magnitude of redemption, Psalm 107:2-5;
Psalm 130:7
⁷ Let Israel hope in the LORD: for with the LORD *there is* mercy, and with him *is* plenteous redemption.
Luke 2:36-38
³⁶ And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity;
³⁷ And she *was* a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served *God* with fastings and prayers night and day.
³⁸ And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.
- I Corinthians 1:30**
³⁰ But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:
Hebrews 9:12
¹² Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption *for us*.
3. We should express our gratitude for deliverance from trouble, Psalm 107:6;
Psalm 50:15
¹⁵ And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.
II Chronicles 20:20-22
²⁰ And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth,

death, and brake their bands in sunder.

¹⁵ Oh that *men* would praise the LORD *for* his goodness, and *for* his wonderful works to the children of men!

¹⁶ For he hath broken the gates of brass, and cut the bars of iron in sunder.

¹⁷ Fools because of their transgression, and because of their iniquities, are afflicted.

¹⁸ Their soul abhorreth all manner of meat; and they draw near unto the gates of death.

¹⁹ Then they cry unto the LORD in their trouble, *and* he saveth them out of their distresses.

²⁰ He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered *them* from their destructions.

²¹ Oh that *men* would praise the LORD *for* his goodness, and *for* his wonderful works to the children of men!

²² And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare his works with rejoicing.

²³ They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters;

²⁴ These see the works of the LORD, and his wonders in the deep.

²⁵ For he commandeth, and raiseth the stormy wind, which lifteth up the waves thereof.

²⁶ They mount up to the heaven, they go down again to the depths: their soul is melted because of trouble.

²⁷ They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wits' end.

²⁸ Then they cry unto the LORD in their trouble, and he bringeth them out of their distresses.

²⁹ He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still.

³⁰ Then are they glad because they be quiet; so he bringeth them

Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper.

²¹ And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the LORD, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the LORD; for his mercy *endureth* for ever.

²² And when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten.

Daniel 3:27

²⁷ And the princes, governors, and captains, and the king's counsellors, being gathered together, saw these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them.

Daniel 6:22

²² My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.

II Timothy 4:18

¹⁸ And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve *me* unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom *be* glory for ever and ever. Amen.

4. He is our great Leader, Psalm 107:7;

Psalm 77:20

²⁰ Thou leddest thy people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

I Samuel 2:9

⁹ He will keep the feet of his saints, and the wicked shall be silent in darkness; for by strength shall no man prevail.

Luke 24:50

⁵⁰ And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them.

5. God should be praised, for He is good, Psalm 107:8, 9;

Psalm 92:1, 2

¹ (A Psalm or Song for the sabbath day.) *It is a good thing* to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High:

² To shew forth thy lovingkindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night,

Romans 8:28

²⁸ 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.

Acts 10:38

³⁸ How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

II Examples of God's Faithfulness

1. His goodness extends even to the rebellious, Psalm 107:10-16;

Nehemiah 9:16, 17, 26, 27

¹⁶ But they and our fathers dealt proudly, and hardened their necks, and hearkened not to thy commandments,

¹⁷ And refused to obey, neither were mindful of thy wonders that thou didst among them; but hardened their necks, and in their rebellion appointed a captain to return to their bondage: but thou *art* a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and forsookest them not.

²⁶ Nevertheless they were disobedient, and rebelled against thee, and cast thy law behind their backs, and slew thy prophets which testified against them to turn them to thee, and they wrought great provocations.

unto their desired haven.

³¹ Oh that *men* would praise the LORD *for* his goodness, and *for* his wonderful works to the children of men!

³² Let them exalt him also in the congregation of the people, and praise him in the assembly of the elders.

³³ He turneth rivers into a wilderness, and the watersprings into dry ground;

³⁴ A fruitful land into barrenness, for the wickedness of them that dwell therein.

³⁵ He turneth the wilderness into a standing water, and dry ground into watersprings.

³⁶ And there he maketh the hungry to dwell, that they may prepare a city for habitation;

³⁷ And sow the fields, and plant vineyards, which may yield fruits of increase.

³⁸ He blesseth them also, so that they are multiplied greatly; and suffereth not their cattle to decrease.

³⁹ Again, they are minished and brought low through oppression, affliction, and sorrow.

⁴⁰ He poureth contempt upon princes, and causeth them to wander in the wilderness, *where there is* no way.

⁴¹ Yet setteth he the poor on high from affliction, and maketh *him* families like a flock.

⁴² The righteous shall see *it*, and rejoice: and all iniquity shall stop her mouth.

⁴³ Whoso *is* wise, and will observe these *things*, even they shall understand the lovingkindness of the LORD.

²⁷ Therefore thou deliveredst them into the hand of their enemies, who vexed them: and in the time of their trouble, when they cried unto thee, thou heardest *them* from heaven; and according to thy manifold mercies thou gavest them saviours, who saved them out of the hand of their enemies.

2. Transgressors, who cause their own afflictions, are included, Psalm 107:17-22;

Proverbs 13:15

¹⁵ Good understanding giveth favour: but the way of transgressors *is* hard.

Micah 7:18

¹⁸ Who *is* a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth *in* mercy.

3. He controls the elements and stills the tempest, Psalm 107:23-32;

Proverbs 30:4

⁴ Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended? who hath gathered the wind in his fists? who hath bound the waters in a garment? who hath established all the ends of the earth? what *is* his name, and what *is* his son's name, if thou canst tell?

Matthew 8:27

²⁷ But the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man *is* this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!

Mark 4:39

³⁹ And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

4. Wickedness of men causes a fruitful land to become waste, Psalm 107: 33, 34.

5. Mercy of God turns a wilderness into a fruitful land, Psalm 107:35-38;

Isaiah 35:1, 2

¹ The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose.

² It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the LORD, *and* the excellency of our God.

Isaiah 51: 3

³ For the LORD shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody.

III His Dealings with Men

1. Through devious means He talks to men, Psalm 107:39;

Psalm 94:12

¹² Blessed *is* the man whom thou chastenest, O LORD, and teachest him out of thy law;

Proverbs 3:11, 12

¹¹ My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction:

¹² For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son *in whom* he delighteth.

2. The Lord is no respecter of persons, Psalm 107:40;

Acts 10:34

³⁴ Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:

Ephesians 6:9

⁹ And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him.

3. He loves the poor but stops the mouth of the sinner, Psalm 107:41, 42;

James 2:5

⁵ Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?

Job 5:16

¹⁶ So the poor hath hope, and iniquity stoppeth her mouth.

4. To observe the things of God brings understanding of His ways, Psalm 107:43;

Daniel 12:10

¹⁰ Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.

Jeremiah 9:23, 24

²³ Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise *man* glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty *manglory* in his might, let not the rich *man* glory in his riches:

²⁴ But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I *am* the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these *things* I delight, saith the LORD.

John 8:31, 32

³¹ Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, *then* are ye my disciples indeed;

³² And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

NOTES:

God's Holy Word is filled with excellent advice. It teaches men how to live and is our guide to that heavenly home. It is necessary to believe and receive all the Word of God in our hearts, and not take exception to any portion of Scripture. In Revelation 22:18, 19 we are explicitly informed that the whole Word of God is necessary and sufficient to provide all a passport into Glory.

Thus in this Psalm we are told to give thanks unto the Lord, to praise and worship Him. The praises of God are one of the fruits of a genuine experience in the Lord. If we are attached to the True Vine we have the fruits of the True Vine. If our experience is false, or we have allowed it to lapse and we have fallen into a backslidden condition, our praises are insincere and only sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal. If the joy of the Lord is not our strength His Spirit will not be upon our testimony. How inspiring and uplifting to men, but above all how pleasing in the ears of the Lord, are the praises of the saints here below if we long to sing praises and worship before that Heavenly Throne throughout all the endless ages of eternity, it is necessary that we institute proceedings right here and now.

There is a deep joy in salvation. David knew this, and was also honest enough to admit that he had lost his experience, and to pray for its restoration. He said (Psalm 51:12), "Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation." There is a delusion of the devil, which causes people to believe that joy and happiness can be found only in sin. David had possessed the joy -- lost it -- and found himself in the clutches of Satan, filled with remorse and grief. He realised the difference between the fruits of sin and the peace of God. The first Psalm tells us who is the happy man. When we make contact with Christ, and His Blood is upon the doorposts and lintels of our hearts, it is our joy to do His will in all things, which includes expressing our gratitude for a marvellous deliverance from the rule of the enemy, and for the freedom of salvation.

It takes more than a few minutes to recall God's marvellous blessings. The experience of serving Jesus through the years has been wonderful -- but do we realise the blessings poured out upon our lives each moment? Just pause and consider. Most

certainly we should "give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good."

Many times when we are seeking something from God, pleading before the throne, it would do us well to remember His admonition to praise.

This 107th Psalm is filled with reasons why we should praise the Lord. He gathers His people, feeds them with the Bread of Heaven, delivers them from their distresses, leads them in the right way, is merciful even unto the backslider who has wandered away and awakened in trouble and distress. In verse 9 we read, "For He satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness." God loves a hungry heart, and blessings are in store for the one who comes to Him with such an attitude (**Luke 1:53** ⁵³ He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away.). He not only makes the storm a calm, but upon entrance into a heart He causes also the raging tempest of sin and remorse to be stilled. "Then are they glad because they be quiet."

There is no better time than the present to praise the Lord. There is a continual spirit of worship and thanksgiving ascending from the heart of a saint of God, but it is good to orally express that which is felt in the heart. God loves praise and will honour the one who thus exalts His Holy Name. We see the manifestation of the covert of His wings and the shadow of His everlasting arms in our daily lives, and say, with the Psalmist, "O give thanks unto the LORD; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people. Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him: talk ye of all his wondrous works" (Psalm 105:1, 2).

QUESTIONS

1. What is the general exhortation of Psalm 107?
2. Is the spirit of this exhortation borne out in the lives of the redeemed?
3. There are wonderful promises in this Psalm. Enumerate them.
4. What is the result of rebelling against the Word of God?
5. Explain what should be done when one is in trouble.
6. What is the expected result of this action?
7. What is written in this Psalm about testifying in church?
8. What will the redeemed in Heaven do throughout all eternity?
9. Are we under any obligation to praise God?