

The Psalms  
(Lesson 29)

Introduction:

1. The Psalms must be studied carefully because they are part of the Old Testament Scriptures (Luke 24:44), and they *"were written for our learning"* (Romans 15:4).
2. Psalm 100 reveals some important principles that relate to "thanksgiving."

Discussion:

- I. (vs.1-3) PRAISE IS TO BE OFFERED TO GOD
  - A. (vs.1-2) 3 statements declare that God's people are to praise Him:
    1. *"make a joyful noise unto the Lord"*
    2. *"serve the Lord with gladness"* (see Psalm 122:1)
    3. *"come before His presence with singing."*
  - B. Many of the psalms begin with similar appeals (95:1; 96:1; 98:1).
  - C. (vs.3) 3 statements show why God deserves praise:
    1. *"the Lord He is God"* (see Psalm 95:3-5)
    2. *"He has made us, and not we ourselves"* (see Psalm 95:6)
    3. *"we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture"* (see Psalm 23).
      - a. (vs.1a) David had made the Lord his Shepherd.
      - b. He listed 12 blessings he enjoyed as a result of making the Lord his Shepherd.
        - 1) Contentment: *"I shall not want"*
        - 2) Providential care: *"He maketh me to lie down in green pastures"*
        - 3) Peace: *"He leadeth me beside the still waters"*
        - 4) Restoration: *"He restoreth [turns back] my soul"*
        - 5) Direction: *"He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake"*
        - 6) Courage: *"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil"*
        - 7) Companionship: *"Thou art with me"*
        - 8) Comfort: *"Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me"*
        - 9) Favor: *"Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil"*
        - 10) Abundance: *"My cup runneth over"*
        - 11) Assurance: *"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life"*
        - 12) Immortality: *"I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever."*
- II. (vs.4-5) THANKSGIVING IS TO BE OFFERED TO GOD
  - A. (vs.4) 2 statements declare that God's people are to give Him thanks:
    1. *"enter into His gates with thanksgiving"*
    2. *"be thankful unto Him."*
  - B. Many of the psalms contain similar appeals (105:1; 106:1; 107:1).
  - C. (vs.5) 3 statements show why God deserves thanksgiving:
    1. *"the Lord is good"*
    2. *"His mercy is everlasting"* (see Psalm 103:8, 11)
    3. *"His truth endureth to all generations."*
- III. THANKSGIVING HAS ALWAYS BEEN AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN THE SERVICE THAT GOD DESIRES FROM HIS PEOPLE
  - A. The Israelites
    1. Psalm 100 shows us that the Israelites were to serve and worship God with joy and thanksgiving.
    2. (Deuteronomy 28:47-48) God said He would punish the Israelites if they failed to serve Him with joy and gladness for the many blessings He gave them.
  - B. Christians
    1. See Ephesians 5:19-20; Hebrews 13:15
    2. (2 Timothy 3:1-5) Being unthankful is a serious offense.