

Thank the Lord
Psalm 136:1 – 9
The Laurel Center
November 26, 2014

Main Idea: God gives us all good things to be grateful for.

Introduction

As we come to the holiday of Thanksgiving, I want to focus today on this idea of gratitude to God for his goodness to us. Especially in our culture we are not used to thinking God or anyone else for the things that we enjoy on a regular basis. We often think that it is because of our own abilities that we have these things. We do not really understand the connection of God's goodness in our lives and the good life that we have. From the Bible's perspective, it is only because God is good and gives good gifts that we are where we're at. During this holiday, we must do well to be grateful for God's goodness to us.

Text – Psalm 136:1–9

1 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever. **2** Give thanks to the God of gods, for his steadfast love endures forever. **3** Give thanks to the Lord of lords, for his steadfast love endures forever; **4** to him who alone does great wonders, for his steadfast love endures forever; **5** to him who by understanding made the heavens, for his steadfast love endures forever; **6** to him who spread out the earth above the waters, for his steadfast love endures forever; **7** to him who made the great lights, for his steadfast love endures forever; **8** the sun to rule over the day, for his steadfast love endures forever; **9** the moon and stars to rule over the night, for his steadfast love endures forever;

I. Give thanks to God because he is good to us (vv. 1 – 3).

A He is worthy of our Thanksgiving.

- 1** This Psalm starts out proclaiming God is the King of the universe who is great as creator and King over his creation. As sovereign, God can do whatever he wants.
- 2** He does not have to choose to be good to his creation what to do good to his creation. He does not know anything to creation. And yet at the same time he is very good to creation.
- 3** As God has acted toward creation and extremely beneficent way he shows his goodness and his greatness. God is great because of his attributes. God is good because of his deeds.
- 4** Because he has created this world and us, he is worthy of all of our praise and thanksgiving. He is worthy of our praise because of who he is and what he has done for us.

B He is a good God who blesses us.

- 1 God's good works are demonstrate throughout the Bible. Every time that he acts he asked for the greatest good of humanity. Because he is so benevolent to us, we must be grateful for his goodness.
- 2 The first part of this Psalm speaks about God's greatness and about his personhood. His greatness cannot be called into question by humanity. He cannot be challenged concerning his person.
- 3 Because he is greater than humans and humans are his creation they cannot challenge him concerning himself. God stands alone as judge over himself.
- 4 Although God did not have to demonstrate his goodness to us he did that very thing. In fact, he demonstrated extreme goodness to us even to the point of providing salvation for all of humanity that would accept him.
- 5 Beyond this gift of salvation God has provided so many good things especially to those who know him. Is goodness is demonstrated to everyone to matter whether they believe in him or not.
- 6 Is demonstrated goodness to us brings us even more reasons to thank him and be grateful that he chooses to demonstrate this goodness to us. Because he is sovereign, it could've chosen a different way to react to the sin of humanity.

II. Give thanks to God for his good gifts (vv. 4 – 9).

A He blesses us with good things.

- 1 The second part of the Psalm demonstrates that God acted with goodness during creation as he created the heavens and the earth, the great lights to govern the earth, and every other good thing that we enjoy today.
- 2 God will continue to demonstrate his goodness throughout the whole of Scripture. Other parts of this section will focus on how God has blessed Israel.
- 3 Israel is the contextualization of God's goodness to his nation. As I look at this personally this would be the place for my own testimony of God's goodness will be displayed.
- 4 The final part of the Psalm points out with introspection that God looked on us and are very worst and rescued us in our dire need. Beyond this he gives food to everyone equally. All of these are great reasons to be thankful to the Lord.

B He gives only good things

- 1 James 1:17 reminds us that God is not only good to us but only gives good gifts to us. The bad things that we experience in life, the evil things, are not from God.

- 2 God's goodness to us is immeasurable. Although he did not have to be so kind to us and so good he chose to demonstrate extreme goodness and offer of salvation and every other good gift that we have seen from his hand.
- 3 Even if God stopped at creation itself he would still deserve praise and thanksgiving because he created all of humanity. He gave us a place to call home and to enjoy life.
- 4 Beyond all of this, the Psalm's attention to the nation of Israel shows that we can personalize God's goodness to us and tell our own story as well. Even in testifying about God's goodness we show our thanks and gratitude.
- 5 This particular Psalm places God's goodness and greatness as our reason for giving thanks. But it must also be noted that the rest of the Bible demonstrates that we should be grateful for those around us to also show goodness to us.
- 6 Inasmuch as God demonstrates his goodness to us and does not have to, so also other human beings do not have to be good to us but they are. We should be thankful for all good things that happen to us.

Conclusion

Goodness is not a natural trait for human beings to help. It takes seeing the demonstration of that goodness by others and by God. The elder John teaches us that we only know love because God taught it to us. The same is true of goodness. We should be grateful for all the things that come our way. Because we are not the masters of our own destinies all goodness that comes to us originates with God. Because he gives all these good things to us we are more than grateful to him and we thank him regularly. Do not leave only one day a year to show your gratitude to God and to others. Demonstrate this gratitude throughout the year to all who were good to use. After all, showing her gratitude is the very least that we can do.