

His Mercy Endures Forever

Ps. 136:1-3

INTRODUCTION

- A. Illustration about husband's epitaph, *Illustrations Unlimited*, #20, p. 264.
- B. Are we always grateful for what God has done?
 - 1. Too many times we take what God has given for granted, and we don't thank him.
 - 2. Too many times we are dissatisfied because God has not given everything we want.
- C. Christians should be individuals filled with thanksgiving.
 - 1. "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful" (Col. 3:15).
 - 2. "In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thess. 5:18).
- D. The psalmist exhorts the Israelites to thank God, vv. 1-3.
 - 1. The Israelites should thank God, for he is good, v. 1.
 - a. The psalmist is going to tell us what he means by good.
 - b. God is good because of his creation and his redemption of the Israelites.
 - 2. God's mercy endures forever, v. 1.
 - a. The phrase "For His mercy endures forever" occurs after each colon in this Psalm.
 - 1) This highlights the importance of this concept.
 - 2) The psalmist wants to impress on our minds that God should be thanked because of his enduring mercy.
 - b. God's mercy refers to his loyal and unfailing love.
 - 1) Even though at times, Israel was unfaithful, God still loved and cared for his people.
 - 2) God's love and concern will never be extinguished; it endures forever.
- E. After exhorting people to praise God, the psalmist spends the rest of the psalm discussing why God's people should be grateful.
 - 1. The psalmist discusses the wonder of God's creation; he exhorts the people to praise God because of the creation.
 - 2. The psalmist then discusses the redemption history of Israel--how God led the people from Egypt to the establishment of the kingdom.
- F. We have so much for which we should be grateful.
 - 1. "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights" (Js. 1:17).
 - 2. "A faithful man will abound with blessings" (Prov. 28:20).
 - 3. Let's examine some of the reasons that we can praise God.

GOD GIVES TEMPORAL BLESSINGS

- A. We have the temporal blessing of food.
 - 1. The Scriptures teach that our food comes from God.
 - a. "You visit the earth and water it, You greatly enrich it; The river of God is full of water. You provide their grain, For so You have prepared it" (Ps. 65:9).
 - b. The psalmist prays that "Our barns may be full, Supplying all kinds of produce" (Ps. 144:13).
 - c. God sends us bread for food (2 Cor. 9: 10).
 - 2. Because God provides our food, we should thank him for it.
 - a. When Jesus fed the five thousand, Jesus blessed the bread and fish before giving them to his disciples (Mt. 14:19).
 - b. When Paul was on a ship headed for Rome, he gave thanks to God before he ate (Acts 27:35).
 - 3. Are you grateful for your food?
- B. As we seek God's kingdom first, God gives us clothing and food (Mt. 6:25-33).
 - 1. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said not to worry about food or clothing.
 - 2. God richly provides for the birds and lilies, and he will care for us as well.

- C. God gives us the blessing of family.
 - 1. God gave the blessing of spouses.
 - a. The Bible teaches that women were created to be a blessing to their husbands.
 - 1) God saw that "it is not good that man should be alone" (Gen. 2:18).
 - 2) "He who finds a wife finds a good thing" (Prov. 18:22).
 - 3) "A prudent wife is from the Lord" (Prov. 19: 14).
 - b. Because women are a blessing they need to be cared for their husbands.
 - 1) "Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel" (1 Pet. 3:7).
 - 2) Husbands, are you treating you wife as a blessing?
 - 2. God gave the blessing of children (Ps. 127:3-5).
 - 3. God also gave the blessing of grandchildren--"Children's children are the glory of old men" (Prov. 17 :6).
 - 4. Those of you who have children and grandchildren know what a blessing they are.
 - a. Many times we fail to remember that children are a gift from God, because they disappoint and hurt.
 - b. Children are going to disappoint and hurt, because they're human--No child is perfect.
- D. Are you thankful for the temporal blessings God gives?

GOD GIVES SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS

- A. Every spiritual blessing is in Christ (Eph. 1:3).
 - 1. God has not withheld any spiritual blessings from his people.
 - 2. Every spiritual blessing God has & available in Christ.
 - a. If one is going to receive God's spiritual blessings, he must be in Christ.
 - b. The only way to get into Christ is to be baptized into Christ (Gal. 3:27).
- B. Let's examine some of the blessings we have in Christ.
 - 1. God has chosen us, vv. 4-5.
 - a. This does not mean that God decided who would be saved and who would be lost.
 - b. This means that God chose to bless Christians.
 - 2. We have redemption, vv. 7-8.
 - a. "Redemption" means "to set free a thing or person that has come to belong to another."
 - b. In our sin, we came to belong to Satan.
 - c. But, Jesus stepped forward and offered his blood to buy us back from Satan.
 - d. Because we have redemption, we have the forgiveness of sins.
 - 3. We have an inheritance, v. 11.
 - a. In the NT, "inherit" carries the idea of obtaining eternal life (Eph. 5:5).
 - b. The inheritance mentioned here is eternal life.
 - 4. We have the Holy Spirit, vv. 13-14.
 - a. When we were baptized, we received the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38-39),
 - b. In Christ, we were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit.
 - 1) In the ancient world, goods were sealed to show to whom they belonged.
 - 2) We have been sealed with the Holy Spirit to show that we belong to God.
 - c. The Holy Spirit is the guarantee of our inheritance.
 - 1) This was a deposit given to purchase something.
 - 2) This payment obligated the party to make further payments.

CONCLUSION

- A. God expects his people to be thankful for all his blessings.
- B. Are you thankful?