

Thanksgiving

by Wayne Goff

Psalm 100: A Psalm of Thanksgiving

“Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands! Serve the LORD with gladness; come before His presence with singing. Know that the LORD, He is God; it is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations.”

A benefit of reading this psalm is to understand **how** God wants to be honored and appreciated in worship. The psalm is *inspired* and thus approved by God. A second benefit to this psalm is to recognize *our proper place* in this world and *in relationship* to God our Creator.

God wants us to worship Him with singing because it is a joyful expression of a loving heart. When we are joyful, then we desire to sing (James 5:13). So to worship God with a cheerful heart is a heart of appreciation to God.

We are to realize that we are the *created*, not the *creator*. A failure to realize our dependency upon God as Creator causes man to think he is the highest being! *“It is He who has made us”* the psalmist proclaims! New Age religion which makes man a “god” and our nation’s ever-increasing narcissism forgets this immutable truth.

True thanksgiving leads us to worship God in the church today. Our hearts are full of praise, thankfulness, and honor. Jehovah is good! His mercy lasts forever! Heaven and earth shall pass away, but His word shall not pass away!

We close with a word of warning from Abraham Lincoln: “We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. . . . It behooves use, then to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness.” [April 30, 1863].

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