

# Sermon Notes

## The Hope of Thanksgiving - Psalm 100

### November 29, 2020

#### I. Introduction

- a. do you know people who are unthankful... people who are so difficult that:  
They have to stand on their head to smile.  
Milk curdles when they drink it.  
Their imaginary friends constantly tick them off.  
Tele-marketers hang up on them.  
Someone keeps sending their obituary into the newspaper.  
The devil tells them to take it easy on other people.
- b. hopelessness can make us difficult to be around... a lot more hopeless people today than a year ago... how can being thankful give us hope... pray...  
Psa 52:8-9... **"I am thriving in the house of God... always trust in His love... give thanks forever, because You have done it... will hope in your name for it is good..."**

#### II. Hope of Thanksgiving

- a. God did something so amazing for us this week... that I am just beginning to understand what it means to serve Him with fear and trembling...  
Psa 2:11... **"serve the Lord with reverential awe... rejoice with trembling..."**  
Phil 2:12... **"work out salvation with fear and trembling..."**
- b. answer came about after days and days of praise and thanks, not worry... resting in His promises... refusing to be moved by what we saw or heard...  
Psa 100... **"shout with joy to the Lord... worship the Lord with gladness... come before Him singing with joy... He made us and we are His people... enter His gates with thanksgiving... His courts with praise... give thanks to Him and praise His name... for the Lord is good... His unfailing loves continues forever..."**
- c. Invitation  
God doesn't force us to give thanks... He invites us... you can choose to enter and celebrate with Him or not... but the password to the party is thanks and praise...  
Psa 100:4... **"enter His gates with thanksgiving... His courts with praise..."**
- d. from the beginning... Thanksgiving was all about giving thanks to God... to thank Him for giving so freely... gets us in a place of faith to receive His blessings...  
Rom 8:17-32... **"heirs of God... co-heirs with Christ... freely given all things..."**  
1Cor 2:12... **"HS helps us know... things freely given to us by God..."**

1621 - 1<sup>st</sup> Thanksgiving in America... following harsh winter, Pilgrims reaped harvest...  
1789 - 1<sup>st</sup> official government proclamation by George Washington  
1863 - declared national holiday by Abraham Lincoln  
1941 - FDR signed bill officially making 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday in November Thanksgiving

**It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly implore His favor... I now proclaim Thursday, November 26, 1789... that we may all unite to render unto Him our sincere and humble thanks for His care and protection. George Washington**

- f. Motivation  
if we've been invited to the party... what would motivate us to go...  
Psa 100:5... **"for (because) the Lord is good... His unfailing love endures forever... His faithfulness continues to each generation..."**
- g. *many people are motivated to give thanks only when it looks like there is something to be thankful for...* don't let that be you... God's goodness, mercy, love, grace, faithfulness are more than enough motivation to give thanks... and if you're motivated to go to the party... you'll accept the invitation...
- h. ever heard of Squanto... one reason why we celebrate Thanksgiving... from Pawtuxet tribe... went to England in 1605... returned 1608... sold into slavery in Spain to Spanish monk who taught him Christianity... made his way back to England and then America in 1618... entire tribe died from smallpox, brought over by English... taught settlers how to farm, fish, get syrup from maple trees, avoid poisonous plants, was guide and interpreter... Pilgrims would not have survived without him (Samoset)... even though they were responsible for the death of his people... Christian faith allowed him to forgive... even in great difficulty he chose to be a blessing... his motivation was the love of God...  
Gal 6:10... **"as we have opportunity... do good to everyone... family of faith..."**  
Eph 4:31-32... **"forgive one another... just as God forgave you in Christ..."**  
Col 3:13... **"forgive one another... just as God has forgiven you..."**  
1Thess 5:15... **"don't repay evil for evil... but always seek to do good..."**
- i. Celebration  
invited to party... motivated to go to party... what's going to happen when we get there... celebration... forgotten Thanksgiving should be a celebration...  
Psa 100:1-3... **"shout with joy to the Lord... worship the Lord with gladness... come before Him singing with joy... know that the Lord is God..."**
- j. notice the verbs, actions steps... shout, worship, sing, know... only four Pilgrim women alive... cooked for 140... still celebrated... children served meal...  
Rom 12:1... **"because of all God has done... this is the way to worship..."**  
2Cor 8... **"during severe trial... abundant joy and extreme poverty overflowed in a wealth of generosity... begged us for privilege of sharing... thank God..."**  

**God be praised, we had a good increase of corn. Although it be not always so plentiful, by the goodness of God, we are so far from want, that we wish you could be partakers of our plenty. Edward Winslow - 1621**
- k. respond in celebration because we know the Lord is God... shout, worship, sing because of all He has done... sometimes need to do that before we see it...  
2Cor 4:16-18 **MSG**... **"not giving up... on the outside it often looks like things are falling apart... on the inside, where God is making new life... not a day goes by without His unfolding grace... these hard times are small potatoes compared to the coming good times... the lavish celebration He has prepared for us..."**
- l. a few of us are more difficult to deal with than last year... why, hopelessness... thanksgiving brings us hope... makes us a little less difficult... three reasons to start giving thanks... God invites us to... His goodness is our motivation... and it brings great celebration... make thanks a lifestyle, not just a day... pray...  
Psa 52:8-9... **"I am thriving in the house of God... I always trust in His love... I will give thanks forever... and I will hope in your name for it is good..."**

## Praise the Lord

Psa 107:8... *O that men would praise the Lord for His goodness...*

If we **complained less**, and **praised more**, we should **be happier**, and God would be more glorified. Let us daily praise God for common mercies... common as we frequently call them, and yet so priceless, that when deprived of them we are ready to perish.

Let us bless God for the eyes with which we behold the sun, for the health and strength to walk abroad, for the bread we eat, for the raiment we wear. Let us praise Him that we are not cast out among the hopeless or confined amongst the guilty.

Let us **thank Him** for liberty, for friends, for family associations and comforts. Let us **praise Him**, in fact, **for everything** which we receive from His bounteous hand, for we deserve little, and yet are most plenteously endowed.

Beloved, the sweetest and the **loudest note** in our songs of praise **should be of redeeming love**. God's redeeming acts towards His chosen are forever the favourite themes of their praise. If we know what redemption means, let us not withhold our sonnets of thanksgiving. We have been redeemed from the power of our corruptions, uplifted from the depth of sin in which we were naturally plunged. We have been led to the cross of Christ, our **shackles of guilt have been broken** off. We are **no longer slaves**, but children of the living God. We can know we will be presented before the throne without spot or wrinkle or any such thing.

Even now by faith we wave the palm-branch and wrap ourselves about with the fair linen which is to be our everlasting array, and shall we not **unceasingly give thanks** to the Lord our Redeemer?

Child of God, canst thou be silent? Awake, awake, ye inheritors of glory, and lead your captivity captive, as ye cry with David, *blest the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name*. Let the new month begin with new songs.

**Charles Spurgeon**  
**Morning and Evening Devotional – December 1<sup>st</sup>**

## Sermon Study

*The Hope of Thanksgiving - Psalm 100* - November 29, 2020

1. Do you know any **difficult people**? Do you like being around them? Why or why not? How does hopelessness make us more difficult? Read **Psa 52:8-9**. What is the **answer**?
2. Read **Psa 2:11** and **Phil 2:12**. What does it mean to you to serve the Lord, or work out your salvation, with **fear and trembling**?
3. Read **Psa 100**. Is there a difference between **God inviting** you to give thanks or forcing you to? What is it? Why is it important?
4. Read **Psa 100:5**. Is it **enough motivation** for you to know that God is good... His love is unfailing... and His faithfulness continues throughout all generations? Why or why not?
5. *Many people are motivated to give thanks only when it looks like there is something to be thankful for.* **Explain**. Is that you?
6. If you're **invited** to give thanks and **motivated** to give thanks... what happens when you **start** to give thanks? Read **Psa 100:1-3**. How is **celebration** a true part of thanksgiving?
7. Why is it important to start **giving thanks** even **before** we see any results? Read **Rom 12:1... 2Cor 8... 2Cor 4:16-18**. What is the **connection** between hope and thanksgiving? Read **Psa 52:8-9**. Describe that connection in your life.

## Advent Explanation

November 29, 2020

Not all of us have Christmas decorations up yet, but many do. Traditionally, Christmas stuff gets put up only after Thanksgiving... that is unless you're Walmart, and then it gets put up in late September!!

Christmas truly is the most wonderful time of the year... and with the year we've had... many are celebrating early. Advent is intended for us to slow down, take a deep breath, and remember the real reason for the season.

**Advent** means: *the coming or arrival of something or someone that is important or worthy.*

The very first mention of Advent goes back to AD 380 at the Spanish Council of Saragossa!! Even they were busy!! There's no perfect guide on how to celebrate getting ready for Jesus... so there really isn't a *right or wrong* way to have Advent in your church or your family.

Generally, the themes of Advent correspond to particular weeks.

Week 1 - Hope  
Week 2 - Preparation  
Week 3 - Joy  
Week 4 - Love  
Week 5 - Christ

The candles remind us that Jesus is the Light of the world and He came to dispel the darkness. They are meant, in the middle of our busyness, to remind us first and foremost, that the entire Christmas season is all about Jesus. We encourage you to have your own Advent traditions at home, as well as here.

## Advent - Week 1 - Hope

November 29, 2020

### READING

This is the first week of advent. We light the **andle of hope** to remind us of the promise that the Messiah would come, bringing peace and love to our world. As you enter this season of Advent, what expectations and hopes do you have? Ask Him to reveal Himself to you and begin the Advent season with an open heart filled with hope because of Jesus.

**Light one of the PURPLE candles and then finish by reading the Scripture below.**

### SCRIPTURE

Isa 9:2-7... *The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a light will shine. For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His government and its peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of His ancestor David for all eternity.*

Alternative readings: Psa 122... Isa 2:2-5... Rom 13:11-14  
Songs: Come Thou Long Expected Jesus; Silent Night