

Thanks For Giving Us Part 2

Series

November 10, 2024

In our “Thanks for Giving Us” series, I shared three reasons to give thanks last week.

1. Thanks for giving us... LIFE!

2. Thanks for giving us... LIBERTY!

3. Thanks for giving us... JOY!

Scripture Text: Lamentations 3:22-23 NKJV 22 Through the Lord’s mercies, we are not consumed Because His compassions fail not. 23 They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.

The Book of Lamentations was written because of Judah’s continued idolatry, in which God allowed the Babylonians to lay siege to Jerusalem and burn down Solomon’s Temple. It was to be prayed or sung in worship services, asking God’s forgiveness and seeking restoration to a covenant relationship with Him.

When Adam and Eve rebelled against God in the Garden of Eden, they received a death sentence after they had eaten the forbidden fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. **Genesis 2:16-17 NKJV** 16 *And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”*

Their sins broke their covenant with God. Death was not immediate, but their lives were no longer the same. LIFE, LIBERTY, and JOY had restricted their relationship and intimacy with God because of their sin and rebellion. They were removed from the Garden of Eden and the Tree of Life, preventing them from eating its fruit, where they worshipped God.

Their sins resulted in separation from God, Spiritual and Physical death, loss of righteousness, cursed environment, guilt and shame, and hiding from God!

The enemy, without fail, aims to destroy the place of worship that fortifies a person’s soul!

1. Thanks for giving us... MERCY!

Scripture Text: Jeremiah 29:11-12 NKJV **11** For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not evil, to give you a future and a hope. **12** Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.

God created us for an eternal relationship by making us a reflection of Himself in the earth. Even though the sentence of death passed on from one generation to the next, God planned to send His only Son to redeem all humanity and give us eternal hope.

In this season of life, everything people have hoped in, whether in God and His Word or something else, will be tested.

Psalms 62:5- 6 *For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from Him. He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken.*

2. Thanks for giving us... HOPE!

Scripture Text: Daniel 9:9 NKJV **9** To the Lord our God *belong* mercy and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against Him. **10** We have not obeyed the voice of the Lord our God, to walk in His laws, which He set before us by His servants the prophets.

We all are born with a sinful nature to rebel against the authority of God in pursuit of selfish pleasure. **Romans 3:23** *All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.*

God offers forgiveness before repentance because Jesus atoned for our sins by His death, burial, and resurrection. When we repent, He forgives us, casts our sins into the sea of forgetfulness, and be remembered no more! ***We must accept His forgiveness, forgive ourselves, and not allow the devil to refer to it!***

1 John 1:9 *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just, to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

3. Thanks for giving us... FORGIVENESS!

Scripture Text: Habakkuk 3:17-18 NIV **17** Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails, and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, **18** yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior.

When things look bleak, and the spirit of despair and discouragement is upon the land, we will rejoice, for the Lord God is our salvation !

Psalms 37:25 AMP *I have been young, and now I am old, yet I have not seen the righteous (those in right standing with God) abandoned or his descendants pleading for bread.*

4. Thanks for giving us... SALVATION!

APPLICATIONS:

Throughout the ages, God has never failed to demonstrate His favor to those who called upon His name in faith.

If we are to make America an honorable nation, here is the formula:

2 Chronicles 2:14 NIV: *if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.*