

OH GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD!

I. Psalm 107:1-9

A. Today is our collection day for Operation Christmas Child. While some of you have packed up shoebox gifts, others of you have gone online and purchased chickens, goats, and bees for needy families around the globe who are living in impoverished situations.

B. Two conversations from last Sunday have stuck with me. Vince Popo shared with me about the abject poverty he witnessed firsthand traveling through Panama a few years ago. In comparison, the poorest among us live in luxury. Tim Meek told me about a Samaritan's Purse film where he saw children actually receiving their shoebox gifts. He said these kids were beyond themselves with joy. When you have nothing, a little is a lot! If we gave one of these shoeboxes to one of your children or grandkids for Christmas, they'd feel cheated. If you gave your neighbor a chicken for Christmas, they'd think you were a few eggs short of a dozen. But those receiving what you're giving today will be very blessed and deeply grateful!

C. So with this in mind let's turn to our text this morning, Psalm 107:1-9. These verses ministered to Janet this past Monday in her QT and when she shared them with me, they touched me as well. This psalm is a congregational call to worship and give thanks. It's addressed to those sorely impacted by the Babylonian invasion, i.e. *exiles*. Some were refugees who'd fled to desert places. Others were POW's hauled off by their captors. But now they're back home. They're back to where they once belonged. But remember this psalm is a call to thanksgiving. These words are for all of us but they especially exalt the One who inspired them--our great and mighty God!

D. Psalm 107:1-9 (ESV) is our call to Thanksgiving:

1) **V1: 1** *Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever!* (This Thursday on Thanksgiving, remember these words!)

2) **V2: 2** *Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, (That includes us!) whom He has redeemed from trouble (Most of us have an inadequate understanding of just how much **trouble** we were in before Christ redeemed us! He has redeemed us from sin and death and hell!)*

V3: 3 *and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south. (God's chosen us from various places, brought us together, people who'd never chosen one another; yet here we are--brothers & sisters in Christ!)*

V4-5: 4 *Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to a city to dwell in; 5 hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them. (The psalmist refers to those who faced desperation physically; we faced far worse spiritually!)*

V6: 6 *Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and He delivered them from their distress. (Many good things can come out of our troubles. And God is causing all*

things, even our troubles, to work together for good. But perhaps nothing better occurs when we face troubles than when it causes us to cry out to God! He hears those cries!)

V7-9: 7 He led them by a straight way till they reached a city to dwell in. (We live in a tent city now, but we are bound for New Jerusalem.) 8 Let them thank the LORD for His steadfast love, for His wondrous works to the children of man! 9 For He satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul He fills with good things.

E. As believers in Christ, exiles on this earth (which will one Day be ours) we face many difficulties. We have the promises of God which we cling to, and the God who made them is ever so near, but juxtaposed with those promises are the day-to-day realities that are often very tough. That said, we can give thanks to God in the midst of the realities because of those promises. There is the *already* and the *not yet* and hip deep in the *not yet* we can say with the psalmist: "Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever!"

F. Speaking of that *forever*, listen to these enormously promising words from the famous hymn writer, Issac Watts: "How divinely full of glory and pleasure shall that hour be when all the millions of mankind that have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb of God shall meet together and stand around Him, with every tongue and every heart full of joy and praise! How astonishing will be the glory and the joy of that day when all the saints shall join together in one common song of gratitude and love, and of everlasting thankfulness to this Redeemer! With that unknown delight, and inexpressible satisfaction, shall all that are saved from the ruins of sin and hell address the Lamb that was slain, and rejoice in His presence!"

G. The psalmist who penned Psalm 107 was witness to God's redemption and wrote about it beautifully. And yet he was looking forward to when the promised Messiah would fully redeem mankind. He too knew firsthand *the already and not yet*. He looked ahead for that greater redemption; we look back to it, back to the cross where Jesus the Messiah accomplished that redemption. And what Issac Watts' words described have us looking forward yet again, this time to the consummation of that glorious redemption.

H. Here's how it's described in Revelation 21:1-7 (ESV) when John got that stunning heavenly glimpse of what's to come: 1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be His people, and God Himself will be with them as their God. 4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." 5 And He who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also He said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." 6 And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. 7 The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be My son. ("Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever!")

*** Close with Prayer...**

Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff

Psalm 107:1-9 (ESV)

1 Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever! **2** Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom He has redeemed from trouble **3** and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south. **4** Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to a city to dwell in; **5** hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them. **6** Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and He delivered them from their distress. **7** He led them by a straight way till they reached a city to dwell in. **8** Let them thank the LORD for His steadfast love, for His wondrous works to the children of man! **9** For He satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul He fills with good things.

Quote by Isaac Watts

"How divinely full of glory and pleasure shall that hour be when all the millions of mankind that have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb of God shall meet together and stand around Him, with every tongue and every heart full of joy and praise! How astonishing will be the glory and the joy of that day when all the saints shall join together in one common song of gratitude and love, and of everlasting thankfulness to this Redeemer! With that unknown delight, and inexpressible satisfaction, shall all that are saved from the ruins of sin and hell address the Lamb that was slain, and rejoice in His presence!"

Revelation 21:1-7 (ESV)

1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. **2** And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. **3** And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be His people, and God Himself will be with them as their God. **4** He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." **5** And He who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also He said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." **6** And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. **7** The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be My son.

Bonus Goodies

"We Give Thanks" (Psalm 107) - Sovereign Grace Music

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fKN2yQ157v4>

The Real Story of Thanksgiving (700 Club)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AiYaivj7cek>

Measure Your Heart of Thanksgiving - Article by Sylvia Schroeder
<https://sylviaschroeder.com/measure-your-heart-of-thanksgiving/>

Should Christians Obey the OT Dietary Laws? - John MacArthur (Grace to You)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Us91HPucRU>

Do Christians Have to Obey the OT Laws? - Dr. Thomas Schreiner (Southern Seminary)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jm_-BPFVlgc

[More Verses, Quotes, Excerpts, & Extras](#)

[Psalm 7:17 \(ESV\)](#)

17 I will give to the LORD the thanks due to His righteousness, and I will sing praise to the name of the LORD, the Most High.

[Psalm 9:1-2 \(ESV\)](#)

1 I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart; I will recount all of Your wonderful deeds. **2** I will be glad and exult in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High.

[Psalm 69:30-33 \(NLT\)](#)

30 Then I will praise God's name with singing, and I will honor Him with thanksgiving. **31** For this will please the LORD more than sacrificing cattle, more than presenting a bull with its horns and hooves. **32** The humble will see their God at work and be glad. Let all who seek God's help be encouraged. **33** For the LORD hears the cries of the needy; He does not despise His imprisoned people.

[Psalm 95:1-7a \(NIV\)](#)

1 Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. **2** Let us come before Him with thanksgiving and extol Him with music and song. **3** For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods. **4** In His hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to Him. **5** The sea is His, for He made it, and His hands formed the dry land. **6** Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker; **7** for He is our God and we are the people of His pasture, the flock under His care.

[Psalm 100:1-5 \(ESV\)](#)

1 Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! **2** Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into His presence with singing! **3** Know that the LORD, He is God! It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture. **4** Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise! Give thanks to Him; bless His name! **5** For the LORD is good; His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations.

[Psalm 106:1-2 \(NLT\)](#)

1 Praise the LORD! Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! His faithful love endures forever. **2** Who can list the glorious miracles of the LORD? Who can ever praise Him enough?

Psalm 118:1; 5-6; 14-16; 19-21; 24; 28-29 (NLT)

1 Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! His faithful love endures forever... **5** In my distress I prayed to the LORD, and the LORD answered me and set me free. **6** The LORD is for me, so I will have no fear. What can mere people do to me? **14** The LORD is my strength and my song; He has given me victory. **15** Songs of joy and victory are sung in the camp of the godly. The strong right arm of the LORD has done glorious things! **16** The strong right arm of the LORD is raised in triumph. The strong right arm of the LORD has done glorious things! **19** Open for me the gates where the righteous enter, and I will go in and thank the LORD. **20** These gates lead to the presence of the LORD, and the godly enter there. **21** I thank You for answering my prayer and giving me victory! **24** This is the day the LORD has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it... **28** You are my God, and I will praise You! You are my God, and I will exalt You! **29** Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! His faithful love endures forever.

Colossians 4:2 (AMP)

2 Be persistent and devoted to prayer, being alert and focused in your prayer life with an attitude of thanksgiving.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (ESV)

16 Rejoice always, **17** pray without ceasing, **18** give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (AMP)

16 Rejoice always and delight in your faith; **17** be unceasing and persistent in prayer; **18** in every situation [no matter what the circumstances] be thankful and continually give thanks to God; for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1:3-11 (NLT)

3 Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. **4** Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy, **5** for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now. **6** And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue His work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns. **7** So it is right that I should feel as I do about all of you, for you have a special place in my heart. You share with me the special favor of God, both in my imprisonment and in defending and confirming the truth of the Good News. **8** God knows how much I love you and long for you with the tender compassion of Christ Jesus. **9** I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding. **10** For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ's return. **11** May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation--the righteous character produced in your life by Jesus Christ--for this will bring much glory and praise to God.

Quote by John Wesley

"I preached on the righteousness of the law and the righteousness of faith. While I was speaking, several dropped down as dead and among the rest such a cry was heard of sinners groaning for the righteousness of faith that it almost drowned my voice. But many of these soon lifted up their heads with joy and broke out into thanksgiving, being assured they now had the desire of their soul - the forgiveness of their sins."

Quote by Jerry Bridges

"Thankfulness to God is a recognition that God in His goodness and faithfulness has provided for us and cared for us, both physically and spiritually. It is a recognition that we are totally dependent upon Him; that all that we are and have comes from God."

Quote by A.W. Pink

"Yes, give thanks for "all things" for, as it has been well said "Our disappointments are but His appointments."

Quote by Charles Spurgeon

"I have heard of some good old woman in a cottage, who had nothing but a piece of bread and a little water. Lifting up her hands, she said as a blessing, 'What! All this, and Christ too?'"

Quote by H.U. Westermayer

"The Pilgrims made seven times more graves than huts. No Americans have been more impoverished than these who, nevertheless, set aside a day of thanksgiving."

Erma Bombeck on Feeling Grateful

An estimated 1.5 million people are living today after bouts with breast cancer. Every time I forget to feel grateful to be among them, I hear the voice of an eight-year-old named Christina, who had cancer of the nervous system. When asked what she wanted for her birthday, she thought long and hard and finally said, "I don't know. I have two sticker books and a Cabbage Patch doll. I have everything!" The kid is right.

- Erma Bombeck, *Redbook*, October Edition, 1992.

Now Thank We All Our God

By Pastor Martin Rinkart, 1644

Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, in Whom this world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;

And keep us in His grace, and guide us when perplexed;
And free us from all ills, in this world and the next!

All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given;
The Son and Him Who reigns with Them in highest Heaven;
The one eternal God, whom earth and Heaven adore;
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

The Martin Rinkart Story

By Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878)

The following is from Catherine Winkworth's "*Christian Singers Of Germany*." She is the one who translated Martin Rinkart's hymn in the 19th century.

This classic hymn, "*Now Thank We All Our God*," was written by a pastor Martin Rinkart who suffered greatly through the 30 Years War in Germany during which (through war and famine) 4/5 of the population of Germany died. He himself was in extreme poverty and when the pastors of his 2 neighboring towns died he ended up having to do the work of 3 pastors, burying 4,000 people in 1637 (50 per day!) - including his wife - when the plague hit. This was followed by a famine so severe that 30-40 people could be seen in streets fighting to the death over the corpse of a dead cat. And then right after this the Swedes invaded and demanded a ridiculous amount of money in tribute. The story goes that he went to intercede with the Swedish commander to reduce the tribute and the commander refused. At this point Rinkart turned to the crowd that was with him and said "Come my children, we can find no hearing, no mercy with men. Let us take refuge with God." He then fell to his knees and prayed with such pathos that the commander reduced the tribute from \$30,000 to \$2,000. He wrote this hymn in 1644, 4 years before the Peace of Westphalia that ended the War in 1648.

Thanksgiving 1621 - William Bradford

They began now to gather in the small harvest they had, and to fit up their houses and dwellings against winter, being all well recovered in health and strength and had all things in good plenty. For as some were thus employed in affairs abroad, others were exercising in fishing, about cod and bass and other fish, of which they took good store, of which every family had their portion. All the summer there was no want; and now began to come in store of fowl, as winter approached, of which this place did abound when they came first (but afterward decreased by degrees). And besides waterfowl there was great store of wild turkeys, of which they took many, besides venison, etc. Besides they had about a peck of meal a week to a person, or now since harvest, Indian corn to that proportion. Which made many afterwards write so largely of their plenty here to their friends in England, which were not feigned but true reports.

- William Bradford, *History of Plymouth Plantation*, (1620-1647).