

Lake Drummond Nov 22 92
(F. L. Taylor's play Super) Nov 1, 1991

S.N. Nov 25, 79 A.M.
(over outline) -

wed. P.M. Brentley, Nov. 25, 1987 ✓✓
Thanksgiving Eve.
Grove Park April 9, 1989 ✓✓
Grove Park Nov 22, 90 ✓✓
(Thanksgiving service wd)
Brent Lox Nov 24, 91 A.M. ✓✓

"WHEN PRAISE IS MISSING"

Psalm 103

INTRODUCTION: "A little girl from Ireland was heard to say 'God must really be good to the people in America, they have so many things to be thankful for...'"

The sheer beauty of this Psalm has made it an all-time favorite. Because it is a pure note of praise and Thanksgiving. It is one of the noblest hymns in the Old Testament. It is the greatest found in the Scriptures.

The theme runs throughout this mighty anthem and it is a theme of God's grace. And he tells us and defines something about the extras that we receive in God's grace.

Christians are more accustomed to making petitions than we are to giving God praise. We are encouraged to ask, to seek, and to knock - but James rebukes us, you have not because you ask not. Even though Christians are more comfortable with petitions, than with praise, the Psalmist admits that this is the gratitude and it ought to grow in our garden. But that it ought not to stop there. That it ought to branch out into our nation. And this praise reaches out to the nation, and ultimately, in one sweeping word he invites everyone to join in.

I wonder why we are so slow to praise. A woman screamed in her sleep and then she set up in her bed, and wept. Her husband awoke and asked her what was the matter. She replied that she had a dream. She had attended an auction sale of (husbands.) Some she said brought billions of dollars. Some millions. Some many thousands, etc. But what did husbands about like me bring - he asked.

That's why I screamed she said, they had husbands like you bunched together

like onions, and they sold two bunches for a nickel.

There was not very much there to praise about or to be thankful in that dream. But this morning, I want us to consider this Psalm and we are going to do it with three words. Itemizing - V. 1-5. Illustrating - V. 6-18.
Inviting - V. 19-22.

I. ITEMIZING - V. 1-5.

Now simply this is a matter of taking an inventory of the indescribable blessings and benefits which he had received.

A great truth is here discovered.

V. 1 - Bless the Lord. It is interesting to see here that he said, my soul. That is all that is within me. And you combine this meaning. The whole personality. The entire being. The kind of praise that was not superficial. It was not a P.T.L.

All our faculties

anyhow Talks with his soul - checking up on himself!

Old Negro often talked to himself - when asked? well sir, you see it this way. I like to talk to an intelligent person and I like to hear an intelligent person talk.

You know, you hear some of these people who praise God. Praise God, they wreck the car. Praise God, he died. But now this is enthusiastic. They kind of turn me off. Because that makes praise a mockery. Instead of meaningful. Instead of heartfelt expression.

J. Wash Watts says, to bless means to pronounce holy.

The root meaning to "bend the knee", to kneel, and it means to praise - adore - to bless God. And this man is commanding his own soul to express praise and to pronounce thanksgiving. He is summonizing all of the facilities of his power, his whole being, to give gratitude to God.

12
Now, this leads us not to just think about this special day in November. In which we are all reminded - but this is Thanksgiving Day. But here was a blessing - the covenant of God with Israel. It was in his holy name. And it means his character is holy. So on the basis of this blessing in this verse is God himself. Because of who he is and what he is due in the way of blessing. He is the Lord, he is holy. And he is worthy.

And he is reminding himself not to forget all of the benefits which he has received.

Now, in itemizing his blessings, his things for which he is thankful - the benefits. He sets forth here six things. Now I am going to briefly give you these six things which he sets forth. Because he blesses God and he doesn't want to forget the many many blessings that have been his. And so he sets them down for us.

13
1. Forgiveness.

He says in V. 2 who forgiveth all of thine iniquities. The foremost blessing from this poor man was that he was a poor sinner. He has been forgiven. Now this benefit stands first in the list. Because it is first in importance. Generally, if a person cannot praise God for the forgiveness, of his sins - he will not praise God for

anything else. That is why the evil man never thinks of God.

Woman at Well - Went to City - Told of Prophet Jesus to forgive!!

It takes a right relationship to God to express praise. So the ground of praise is - he recognized that he was undeserving. And all of his iniquity - not just some of the things that he had done. Now just the worst thing that he had done. But he said, all is forgiven. So often, adults, you know forget this. It is not personal merit. It is nothing that he deserved. But he said, I have been forgiven! And how wonderful! That each of these things call for the best that he has in praise. And he knows that God loves him - because God has forgiven him.

ALL

2. Healeth. Who healeth all thy diseases. Now only the person who has suffered severe illness, who has experienced recovery from it, can truly appreciate the benefit of healing. And based on the experience that we've had and the medical knowledge that we have had, we are convinced that there are many people if they really turned and praised God - would prepare the way for healing. Now this is not to suggest that there aren't some really sick people. There are. From time to time Doctors recognize that there is a tie between the physical and the mental health, of an individual. And we'd like to ask you the question - have your lately praised God for your good health!

Devil - Almost Killed Job Praised God!

Hezekiah + 15 yrs Added his life! Heart Surgery Year ago!
There are people, maybe like this man, who had been pulled back from the jaws

of the grave. And he is giving thanks for that benefit. He is itemizing, if you will,

forgiveness, and health.

ALL his iniquities.

3. Redeemeth.

V. (4) Who redeemeth thy life from destruction. Well, this has the idea of being in a pit. It could mean corruption in a state of destruction. To redeem is to buy back. And it suggests the (rescue) of life. From the possessive hands of death. And it is sort of like a (ransom) from death. That he will be able to continue life - that is the resurrection.

Man Tombs - Jesus Broke Power of Demons - Changed whole life.

Here is a benefit. It is certain that redemption from life from corruption and destructive forces, is a praise-worthy benefit that Christians enjoy.

How blessed is the child whose home has cast a protective covering over him in the tender years. How blessed is the community that has some persuasive Christians. Who push out the evil forces. And save it from the nightmare of sin.

Now then --

ALL his mercies

4. Crown.

V. (4) Who crowneth thee with loving kindness and tender mercy.

It is a like a carnation scene - the Psalmist says. That God himself has reached out and put a crown upon his head which signifies approval.

Now the crown is not a gold crown - but notice what it is made of. It is made of steadfast love and mercy. The crown is suited to the needs of the children of God. And the man of God here is surrounded by these spiritual benefits. It is just like a woman putting icing on the cake. If you can get what the man is saying. His paint is put in every direction. God forgives, God heals, God redeems. And

His life is crowned.

5. Satisfied. Who satisfieth my mouth with good things. "What a word that is. Full satisfaction for every desire that this man of God has. A man hungry is satisfied with good food. And here is a man who has needs in his life - like health, redemption, etc. - and here is a God who satisfies all of these needs. Now the Hebrew text here in this verse in the King James, uses his mouth. While the revised standard translators made the text to read as long as you live."

(What is clear in the verse is that God's goodness satisfies his children.)
 Made for God, man is restless, unfulfilled, until he finds rest in God.

Our (rootless) and restless generation may be explained on this basis. Searching for the good in life in the wrong place is bound to result in restlessness. And finding the good should end the aimless drifting and anchor one to the rock of ages. Many times people think that the preacher is meddling when he knocks on their door, or he says something in a sermon, trying to encourage them in their church attendance. But once a man has tasted the things of God, once he has had his thirst quenched by the living water, he cannot go back to the stagnant waters of the world. Anytime a man leaves God's house, God's word, and God's people - and goes his own way - he damages his conscience and his peace as well. I John 2:19 says, "they went out from us, but they were not of us." For if they had been of us, they would have no doubt continued with us.

The satisfaction here is that God provides the peace that passeth all understanding

It is very entertaining to observe the making of an interesting yet harmless lie, like when my teenage daughter explained she was parked out in front with her date for two hours because he was teaching her to whistle through her teeth.

A young man called on Mozart and asked him how to write symphonies. "You're still very young," replied the great composer. "I think you should start out by composing simple ballads."

"But," protested the young man, "you were composing symphonies at age ten."

"True," replied Mozart, "but I did not have to ask how."

golf
"Father," asked the serious young man, "do you think that the American Indians were superior to the white man who took this land from him?"

"Well, look at it this way," said the parent. "When the Indians were the sole occupants of this land, they had no taxes, no national debt, no centralized government, no military draft, no foreign-aid programs, no nuclear weapons, and their women did all the work. Could one ask for better than that?"

✓ While traveling in Europe, Mark Twain assured a customs inspector that his luggage contained nothing but clothing. The inspector opened one suitcase and found a bottle of bourbon inside.

"I thought you said there was only clothing in here," the customs man said.

"I did," Twain replied. "You're looking at my nightcap!"

icon - Tar Simpson

CHRISTIAN CLIPPINGS

23

But only those who have it know about it. And God has promised this satisfaction to his people. And God promises it to you. And here is a man of God who is expressing as he itemizes these benefits. He is satisfied. How can such a man grow old.

V. 5
6. Renewed. V. 5 So that thy youth is renewed like the eagles. Who can grow old. Here is a man renewed so that he is perpetually young. Do you know anyone who does not dread old age. Who wants to grow old anyways.

Here is the prescription from the fountain of youth. The house in which we live falls apart - but here is a secret formula - renewal. The goodness of God renews the life like the eagles.

Now the eagle was used as a symbol here for renewed vigor. The Psalmist is thanking God that he has an eternal springtime in his heart. So he is praising God with thanksgiving.

And people worry about old age. Scientists, medical men, are concerned about it. And they do all kind of research and probing into it. The cause of it. But here is a man of God who says, I have a renewal of youth. And it can be found in God.

Itemizing - these indescribable benefits. These personal blessing he counts and he praises God for them.

II. ILLUSTRATING

Now our second word begins with V. 6 and goes through V. 18. And it is the passage in which the man of God talks about how these benefits of God can not only bless him. But he talks about how they have blessed this nation. They have descended upon other people. So I would say in three categories - he gives illustrations. First, in the facts of history. Second in the future. And third, concerning the family!

17 First, the facts of history V. 6 He says the Lord executed righteousness. V. 7 He hath made known his ways unto Moses. His acts unto the children of Israel. He tells how in direct relationship to God, these benefits have come to the nation. And he says, way back in history in the days of Moses, there were benefits. You and I today could go back to the 200 years of freedom as a nation. And think of the benefits and say - because I am an American, I have freedom of speech, I have freedom of press. Free enterprise. Freedom of worship. All of these many blessings - because I am a citizen of the United States. Now the man of God says, those that were oppressed. The nation of Israel was in bondage in Egypt. They suffered injustices. And they cried out to God. God heard their prayers and Moses went to rescue them by a series of plagues. God pressured Pharaoh. And they were released. And he goes on to tell, this little bit of history - that maybe many people think that God didn't have a part in it. But there were men and prophets who cried out against oppression. And God's people did suffer, he said - and God heard. And God made a covenant. God gave them a director when he led Moses to come in and to guide and to deal with their needs. That is beautiful. How we need direction for our own lives. Moses asked God to show him his way. In order that God might be known to the nation. And Jehovah was worshipped. And he led him in his way. And so in history - the acts that we understand, the wonders, the ten plagues, the food and the water, and the victory over Amalek. And the receiving of the ten words at Sinai. In all of the acts of God, Israel benefited and was blessed.

V. 8 - He says, "that the Lord has been merciful, grateful, slow to anger, of plentiful in mercy." Merciful and gracious are the two words describing the kind of God he is. And he is reciting a revelation of Israel - that they had received about him.

Steadfast love. Now this is not a shotgun blast of love aimed at no one in particular. It is a rifle shot of love in which we find that those that fear him in V. 11. It is against the backdrop of Exodus 34. The calf represented rebellion against God. And against Moses. And Moses broke the tables of the law, the commandments - but God was merciful. And his love was gracious. And he was slow to anger. In which the word chide translated here - used for disputes. Especially at law. To not keep his anger forever - means that God does not nurse his grievance. Now man is prone to keep things stirred up - not God. If he deals with us - concerning our sin, it is with love.

2 The next thing in illustrating - I think we can build it around the family. The facts of history tell us a great deal about the blessings the nation received. Now he takes the idea as a father pities his children. V. 12 He says that sin is the thing that separates us from God. How far is it from East to West. The scientist may tell us that the light coming to earth comes at the rate of 11 million miles per minute. It must travel millions and millions of years to reach us. And every inch of that limitless space is included in what this man says. Adam and Eve hid in an effort to put a distance between them and God. Ultimately, they were cast out of the garden. They were put out of touch with the tree of life. Out of fellowship with God.

AND now the man of God says something about the great love. Which causes us

to be separated from God. But he says, God can take and separate our sins from us. Immeasurable distance - as far as the East is from the West. Anyone will tell you that the space is unlimited. Though the man of God tried to be accurate in telling us when a man confesses and repents of his sins, that God dispenses his sins and gets rid of them.

v. 13 V. 13 As a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them at fear him. So here is the picture of a family. And his praise is building up. That God knows we are his children and we are not yet full-grown. And those who fear him - it means those who reverence him. And those who hold him in awe. It points to the Lord's long record of pardons that are freely bestowed.

God knows us best. For he even knows our frame. He knows our understanding. He remembers who we are and what we are. Therefore, like a father, pitieth his children. So the Lord is going to pity them that are his.

Now he says three things that the father knows about his children.

v. 14 First, they are dust. V. 14 He knows our frame. He remembers that we are dust.

Walter Chrysler - Man of World - had 15 million dollars that 2 days before he died was

That like the dust when the potter breaks a vessel. God knows how frail - how weak we are. And he knows of this truth about us. Because we were fashioned with this. And we are, he says, like dust.

V. 15

Second, like ~~grass~~. Thus, the hot sun will kill the grass. And it withers away. For a man, his days are as grass. Your days, he says, are like grass. And your father knows this about you.

1000 funerals - young - aged - 100 up baby -

V. 16

Third, like the ~~wind~~. He says - you are not only like dust or like grass. The flowers of the field that bloom and then goes. Or the wind that passes over and it is gone. And the place thereof knows it no more. The wind blows and passes on. And that's gone. So you are in a family. And this family is like this - the Psalmist says.

But he says in contrast, V. 17 - Here is the Lord who keeps. He is from everlasting until everlasting. And he keeps his covenant. His steadfast love stretches from one side of eternity to the other. Man's life is going to last but a little while. But the Lord's love is going to last forever! It is eternal for those who fear him. This means his gracious dealing with this generation, the next generation, the grandchildren. Such love as those who fear God - will result in keeping his Commandments. And so, he blesses God for the benefits. That he has illustrated for us in the facts of history, and in the family make-up in which we are in.

V. 17

There was a story of a tired minister who in the midst of preparing a sermon, heard the door open. And the voice of his little girl say, Daddy, may I come in. When asked, what she wanted - she replied, "I don't want a thing. I just want to put my little arms around your neck and tell you how much I love you." Does anyone want to hazzard a guess as to how much good those sweet words did. For that worn out man of God. Why is it that we do not cultivate the grace of graditude while ears can still hear. And can be blessed by the glowing words. Would you prefer

having your flowers while you still enjoy them. The Psalmist (itemizing) his benefits (illustrating) his benefits - moves to the closing note.

III. INVITING

V. 19 - 22. The man of God in an ever widening circle, calling for the praise of God, started with himself. Moved to a nation The nation of Israel. And now calls upon all of creation to join him in a great choir of praise. He invites every total thing in the entire universe to take part. He knows that God is not narrow - but his concern with all. And he is concerned with the Lordship - not only the spiritual things, or church things, or big decisions. But Jesus is Lord of the church. But his Lordship goes beyond life, programs, activities. The Lord is interested in our money, the Lord is interested in our resources. In our family - personal things. He rules over all.

Therefore, abundantly he says, I want to extend an invitation that will be universal.

V. 20 He invites the angels - bless my Lord, ye angels who excell in strength. The angels are ordered to praise God. Now they are accustomed to doing his word. And the (word) translated angel, is often referred too or rendered messenger. Reference to the Heavenly messengers, or angels, as we call them.

Another way we might describe it is - angels. To put it in a literal phrase and translate this, you mighty one. And here on this earth, we would say, you men of war. You tough soldiers of the Lord. The word may point to a soldier in God.

Who has a task. Whoever that soldier or messenger may be - they were to be responsive to the Lord's purposes.

And everyone was invited to share in what was being done.

V. 21 - He invites the hosts - ye his hosts. Ye ministers of his. He builds this course of blessing and thanksgiving by encouraging all to join. Which means, all the celestial bodies - like the earth, the stars Deut. 4:19. Or the Heavenly hosts. That army that Elisha prayed, that his servant might see. 2 Kings 6:17. They are servants of God. They wait upon God. They carry out his will. But whatever was meant, I think the point is clear, that since God rules, and his rule is extended over all - that every aspect of creation is due and responsible and subject to offer him praise.

V. 22 - Catch this truth - all his works. Now that is not just a catch-all phrase. But I think he is saying this - in case I have overlooked anyone, I want to make it clear that the whole universe. The hills, the clouds, the trees, in other words - he is challenging everything in this whole universe which God reigns in to come forth and to praise God.

And he takes the shout all the way - until Heaven itself is filled with these shouts of praise.

The Psalm means with a self exhortation here - (bless the Lord, oh my soul.)
(It is as if to say, if no one else does, I will praise the Lord.)

Yet the man of God knew - he was not singing a solo. He knew that all things that belonged to God. And God has created unity and harmony - and should praise him as creatures of his.

Is praise missing in your life. Is there no room for gratitude in your heart. Surely, you and I want to bow humbly at his feet. And we want to crown him Lord of Lords. And pour out every praise of thanksgiving that we can give. Bless the Lord. O my soul. And just as the Psalmist learned this - in meeting the stress and the strain of daily life, we too can know that no experience of ours need ever to be outside his concern or care.

Remember, that God seems far away, if prayers seem blocked, if doubts arise, troubles come. Sickness strikes, fear, dismay, guilt overwhelm. Or your needs are numerous - God is near. He knows, he cares, he comes to us where we are - at our point of need. Here is resources. They are indescribable and inexhaustible.

iel
Let us rejoice in the fact that praise really is what we need! A man who owned a large department store had lost his son in World War I. And had never recovered from it. For him, Veteran's Day, November 11 - was very real. November 11, not long after the war's end, in the middle of the day when the store was full of people. The owner of the store had a Boy Scout stand on the balcony and play taps. The cash registers grew silent. People stopped talking. And a hush fell over the store as the notes were played. As the Scout finished, one woman rushed out of the store, forgetting her change. The clerk caught her and put it in her hand. She looked down at the change and said what is money now.

One of these days, when the end of time has come, and Jesus has returned to claim

Things Around the World - London - Sec - chosen - money -
 -15- Hand and Bunking, Hate -

his own, you may ask - but what about my business, my golf, my vacation, my country club, my family. And a thousand other things. And he will answer, they don't matter now.

Paul - loaded with chains in prison - scourged by the Jews - Stoned - Beaten with Rods -
 Bet by Robbers - immersed in the sea - hungry - Rejoiced in these things in Christ -

Somehow, may God look into each of our hearts and give us guidance to live today. So that when Christ does come, we will be ready. To praise him even in death.

Mary Wiggins - died MD Sept 4 1897
 Brought Ch - 13 - - then about the meeting people say is "the seed"
 Dying - faintly -

"I will be absent from our next ch meeting on earth,
 But I will be in Heaven -
 Parting words husband & weeping children
 "Be good + meet me in heaven"

Sung - at her request -
 "I am going home to die no more"
 Clapped her hands 2 or 3 times
 Died Triumphant death
 At - "let me too, die the death of the righteous"

Winsted -
 Fleming -
 Great trouble -
 my time -
 Church hill!

Thinks Around a Be Thankful; America - Famous India, Yona -
 " Bark " " " : whyta never prayed longer better
 " ahead " " " : "Thanking God for something"
 : mayflower
 : God glory yesterday, today, etc