



Title: Give Thanks to the Lord

Date: November 20, 2022

Scripture Text: Psalm 136

Thursday is Thanksgiving Day! A time of family, food, and football!! It is seen as the kickoff of the holidays. Soon the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season will be upon us. But will we take this opportunity to pause and ponder all the things we have to be thankful for and to Whom we should give thanks. Psalm 136 describes for us Who we should be giving thanks to and for what.

I. Give Thanks to God for *Who He is* ([Psalm 136:1-3](#))

God is good! ([vs. 1](#)) He is good because who He is by nature. But He is also good because He revealed Himself to us. He did so through His creation, His Son, and His word. He also gave us the Holy Spirit to help us understand His revelation to us, and He is good because He disciplines us. God's discipline is an expression of His love and to keep us between the ditches ([Hebrews 12:6](#)).

God is great! ([vss. 2-3](#)) He is "God of gods", and "Lord of lords". He is supremely above all rule and authority. There is no other like Him. As such, He deserves our worship and gratitude ([Isaiah 45:6](#), [Psalm 83:18](#)).

- List three things you are thankful to God for because He is *good*.
- List three things you are thankful to God for because He is *great*.
- Why is it important to do this on a regular basis?
- How can the recognition of God's goodness and greatness help us live more obedient lives?

II. Give Thanks to God for *What He Has Done* ([Psalm 136:4-25](#))

Creator ([vss. 4-9](#)). Only God can create. We may discover or build but cannot create. God's creation is for our enjoyment and care. His creation is a reflection of His might and attention to detail. We are also His creation. With God, there is no accidents in His creation. We are awesomely and wonderfully made ([Psalm 139:13-14](#)).

- List three things about God's creation you are thankful for.
- When was the last time you paused and enjoyed God's creation?
- What is one area in your busy schedule you can change to have more time to enjoy God's creation?

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Savior ([vss. 10-22](#)). The psalmist reminds his readers of God's deliverance of the Hebrews from bondage in Egypt. He describes the events of passing through the Red Sea, defeating the kings who challenged them while in the wilderness and brought them to the land God had promised.

- As is described in this passage, God's delivers the Hebrews from bondage in Egypt. What is something God has delivered you from?
- How can taking opportunities to reflect on what God has done help us have a thankful heart?

Sustainer ([vs. 16](#)). While the Hebrews were in the wilderness, God sustained them. He provided food, water, and direction for them.

- Describe a time God sustained you.
- What was your perspective of God as a result?
- How might we overlook times when God may have sustained us and miss an opportunity to give Him thanks?

Redeemer ([vss. 23-24](#)). Regardless of our situation, God is there ([Isaiah 41:10](#))! But He is also there for us to rescue us from our sin. He redeems us by offering the sacrifice for sin ([Hebrews 10:11-12](#)). He paid a debt we could not pay. Our debt is paid in full!!

- What does it mean to 'redeem' something?
- How does that example play out when we remember we have been redeemed?
- How might we be affected by the realization that, as a Christian, our sin debt has been paid once and for all by the redemptive work of Christ?
 - Why should that motivate us to humbly serve Him with a thankful heart?

Provider ([vs. 25](#)). We can trust and rely on Him to meet our needs; physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual. He provides for our needs so that we can enjoy His provision, and He is glorified ([Psalm 145:15-16](#)).

- What are ways God provides?
- What were the circumstances of the last time you experienced God's provision?
- How can God be glorified by His provision for us?

As Thanksgiving approaches, to be thankful requires someone to receive the thanks. It's not just a warm fuzzy feeling, but a state of mind that motivates to actions of expressing thanks. Remember to Whom we give thanks, and why. He is worthy!!