

GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD (GOD IS GOOD)

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Psalm 107:1-9

"Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy, and gathered out of the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south. They wandered in the wilderness in a desolate way; They found no city to dwell in. Hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted in them. Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and He delivered them out of their distresses. And He led them forth by the right way, that they might go to a city for a dwelling place. Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men! For He satisfies the longing soul, and fills the hungry soul with goodness.

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"Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!" Yes, God is good! (All the time!) In spite of all that each of us has gone through in our lives, here we are today, brought together to recognize that we do have much to be thankful for, and that God indeed is good. Even though we may not have always recognized the hand of God in our lives, how He's protected us, looked after us, kept us from harm, delivered us from evil, He has brought us this far. He breathed the breath of life in us, He has gotten us to this place, in this present time. After all, even this time that we presently exist in was created by God, just as **Colossians 1:16** says "all things were created through Him and for Him", and that it all IS part of God's eternal plan, and as we continue to put our trust and hope in His eternal promise, of eternal life in Him, we have nothing but great hope and anticipation for what lies ahead. As the word of God says in the book of **Romans 13:11**, "our salvation is nearer than when we first believed." That hope that I speak of, that redemption that I refer to IS in Jesus Christ, the Lord! My Lord & my Savior! Hopefully He is your Lord and Savior too! If you haven't called out to Jesus to save you from your sins so that you too can have everlasting life in His eternal kingdom, "today, if you will hear His voice: "Do not harden your hearts" (**Psalm 95:7-8**) for "as many as call on the name of the Lord [Jesus] will be saved." And "behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." (**2 Corinthians 6:2**)

John 3:16-17 says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved."

This present time on earth, our lives on this earth, are not intended to be our eternal home. Jesus said that He was going to prepare a

place for us. There will be a new heaven and a new earth. This is not our home, whether you live in a tent or in 2000 square foot home. People get ready, Jesus is going to redeem His people! Even now He's preparing us in His Righteousness. That is where Jesus said "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." The Righteousness of God has been revealed to us and His name is Jesus. Jesus the Christ, the Son of the Living God! Yes, we are thankful for the food that God provides, the clothes that we are wearing, and the shelter we have, yet more so, we are most thankful to God for sending His Son, Jesus, to this earth, to take our sins upon Himself, paying the penalty of death that was due us for our sins against God, so that we can be reconciled to God and have eternal life in His eternal kingdom! To those who may be struggling today, God says to "cast all your cares upon Him, for He cares for you!" To those who will believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, "as many as call on the name of the Lord will be saved!" And brothers and sisters in Christ, may we keep in mind to "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, **with thanksgiving**, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (**Philippians 4:6-7**)

One more thing that we can be thankful for is all the wonderful people that God has sent into our lives to help us in our time of need, to give us an encouraging word, to give us a smile and a hug when it seems as though no one in this world cares about our struggles. We can be very much thankful for the body of Christ that works together to help those who have fallen into tough times and for the brothers and sisters in Christ that encourage us in our faith, to remain in the hope of what is yet to come. Therefore, as God's Word says in **Hebrews 12:1-2**, "since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, [most notably Jesus Christ our Lord] let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." **Colossians 3:15** says "and let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and **be thankful**."

In closing, I'll share one of my favorite verses in the Bible that is a wonderful promise of God, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." (**Proverbs 3:5-6**) Yes, we do have much to be thankful for!