“What Can I Offer God?”

Prepared By Nathan L Morrison For Sunday August 11th, 2019

Text: I Peter 2:4-5, 9-10

# Intro

1. I Peter 2:4-5, 9-10
	1. One of the many descriptions of saints is a “priest” from a “royal priesthood” and that Jesus is our High Priest of the Order of Melchizedek *(Hebrews 6:19-20; 7:23-27).*
	2. As priests we are told to “offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ” – just as the “former priests” *(Heb. 7:23)* offered up sacrifices, so the priests under the “better covenant” *(Heb. 7:22)* are told to “offer up spiritual sacrifices.”
2. What can I offer to God?
3. Worship:
	1. *Latreia (G2999):* divine service to God; from *G3000 latreuo* (minister to God, religious homage, to serve God).
	2. Webster’s defines it a couple of different ways:
		1. To adore; to pay divine honors to; to reverence with supreme respect and veneration.
		2. To perform acts of adoration.
		3. To perform religious service.
4. One of those ways we can show adoration and honor is in being grateful! Giving thanks! (Col. 3:17)
5. What are you grateful for?
	1. When life is going good it is easy to take for granted all our blessings!
		1. …having enough food, a safe place to sleep, good health, and people who love us, etc.
	2. A study shows that intentionally counting our blessings makes our lives better! *(Counting Blessings Versus Burdens: An Experimental Investigation on Gratitude and Subjective Well-Being in Daily Life;* [*https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/images/application\_uploads/Emmons-CountingBlessings.pdf*](https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/images/application_uploads/Emmons-CountingBlessings.pdf)*)*
6. As you show gratitude for your blessings, remember from where all good things come from: God!
	1. I Timothy 6:17; James 1:17: God gives all good things for us to enjoy!
	2. How do we respond to such an all-powerful, generous God?
	3. Psalm 29:2: Give to God the glory due Him, Worship Him!
7. Despite the failings of His creation God provided a means for mankind to enter His family (Romans 8:14-17) and enjoy the blessings of all good things to be enjoyed!
	1. Psalm 8:1, 3-8: God put man, a lowly creature, over all that He created!
8. God has given so much to us – as a priest and child of God, “What can I offer God?”
	* 1. Sing Praise
9. James 5:13:
	1. “Is anyone among you suffering? Then he must pray. Is anyone cheerful? He is to sing praises.”
10. James tells us that when things are going well, when we are cheerful (happy), we are to sing praises to God!
	1. We can do this at any time!
	2. You don’t have to wait till you are in the assembly of the saints!
	3. Part of being grateful for all that God has done for you is to sing praises when you are happy!
11. ***Challenge!***
	1. Learn the words of a new song of praise this week and sing it as you go about your daily business (in the car, shopping, house chores, etc.).
	2. Look up songs of “Praise” or “Worship” online; or in the Topical Index in the back of our hymnal\* look up hymns of “Praise” (one of the bigger sections) or “Godly Living” (also “Thanksgiving”). *\*Our Hymnal:* *Psalms, Hymns, And Spiritual Songs*
12. You can offer to God a song of praise and thanksgiving for all that He has done for you!
	* 1. Thank Him in Prayer
			+ 1. Colossians 4:2-4

“Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving”

Paul goes on to also ask for their prayers as he teaches the gospel. Today we can follow that pattern by praying for those who teach and preach, that opportunity may open and when it does that they will teach in the way that they should!

* + - * 1. Philippians 4:6

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”

* + - * 1. Even with all that God has done for us and continues to do, He says we can still ask for more!

We just need to remember who we are addressing and ask Him with gratitude in our hearts.

*Matthew 6:6-13:* When Jesus taught His disciples to pray He taught them to address God as, “Our Father in Heaven, Hallowed (Holy) be Your Name.”

When we pray we can ask anything (I John 5:14), but with thanksgiving on our lips!

* + - * 1. ***Challenge!***

At least once a day this next week go to God in prayer and thank Him for all the blessings in your life…without asking Him for anything!

* + - * 1. When you pray, be mindful of what God has done for you and express thanksgiving!
		1. Teach the Gospel
			- 1. I Peter 2:9

Saints are a “chosen race,” a “royal priesthood,” “the people of God” “so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light!”

* + - * 1. Saints are to “proclaim” (to preach) the excellencies of God!

Hebrews 13:15-16: Whether in praise by song or thanksgiving in prayer, we are to continually praise God!

* + - * 1. God works good and provides blessings to those who love Him (Romans 8:28) and He chose us for a specific purpose in His kingdom!

We need to be thrilled about that and teach others so as to expand the borders of the kingdom!

***Are you actively spreading the good news of salvation?***

* + - * 1. ***Challenge!***

This next week, speak to just one new person about the gospel!

Perhaps you just share what God has done for you and why you are so thankful!

* + - * 1. Continually offer up spiritual sacrifices and proclaim the good news to all!

Conclusion

1. Psalm 100:1-5: This psalm summarizes what we can offer God!
2. “What can I offer God?”
3. Sing praises, thank Him, and teach others of His goodness!
4. If you are not a Christian, you need to be. Repent & be baptized, and live for God!
5. If a Christian, do you pray as you should? Draw near to God. Repent and be renewed!
6. Whatever your requests, let them be known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!