Count Your Blessings

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday November 27th, 2022

Text: Psalm 96

### Intro

1. The life of saints is to be categorized as grateful, or thankful!
2. Ingratitude can be seen in the attitudes and actions of many people:
	1. Many children fail to be thankful for the blessings provided them by their parents.
	2. Parents sometimes fail to show gratitude to their children for what they accomplish.
	3. Many husbands and wives fail to show proper appreciation for each other.
3. Sometimes even as Christians:
	1. We may not be thankful enough for each other.
	2. We may not be appreciative enough for the blessings we enjoy in Christ.
	3. We may fall into the sin of ingratitude.
4. We may not think of it much, but ingratitude is a sin, as we are commanded to be thankful!
	1. Romans 1:21; II Timothy 3:2: Ingratitude is a character trait of the wicked!
5. “Count Your Blessings” (1897) by Johnson Oatman, Jr. (1856-1922)
	1. A Methodist preacher and songwriter (credited with 5,000 hymns).
	2. Spent his life mostly as a businessman and songwriter.
	3. Focused hymn writing on young people learning of Jesus!
	4. First published in *Songs For Young People* in 1897
6. May we ever give thanks to God for the blessings in our lives! *(Name them one by one!)*

#### Give Thanks to God in Song

* 1. Psalm 96:1, 12: Singing praises to God is an expression of our thanks to Him
		1. Our lives ought to be characterized by thanksgiving to God!
		2. Psalm 96 *(I Chr. 16:23-33):* “Sing to the Lord a new song; Sing to the Lord, all the earth;” “Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy.”
		3. Luke 19:37-40: Creation gives thanks to God! *(Psalm 148: “Praise the LORD from the heavens;” “Praise the Lord from the earth;” “Let them praise the name of the LORD, For His name alone is exalted”).*
	2. When King David brought the Ark to Jerusalem, there was a celebration of thanksgiving!
		1. I Chronicles 15:26-28; 16:4-7: The people sang and gave thanks to God.
	3. Singing is more than a command from God for worship, but a way we express our gratitude and praise to Him for His great blessings.
		1. Ephesians 5:19-20: “Giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God.”
		2. Colossians 3:16: “Singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”
		3. When He entered Jerusalem, Jesus said if His disciples were silent that “the stones will cry out!” (Luke 19:40)
	4. A thankful heart will sing praises of thanksgiving to God to express to Him our gratitude!

#### Give Thanks to God in Praise

* 1. Psalm 96:2-10: We are thankful for the almighty power of God!
		1. For salvation – Psalm 96:2; 71:15
			1. Acts 4:12: “There is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.” *(Jn. 3:16; 20:30-31)*
			2. *Ephesians 1:7:* “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace.”
		2. For His glorious and wonderful deeds – Psalm 96:3-4, 7-8
			1. Psalm 29:2; 72:19; 148:13: “Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name” *(NKJV: Psalm 29:2); (Luke 20:25: Render to God the things of God)*
			2. James 1:17: “Every good thing given, and every perfect gift is from above.”
		3. For creation – Psalm 96:5-6
			1. Psalm 148:5: “Let them praise the name of the Lord, For He commanded, and they were created.” *(Psalm 102:25: “Of old You founded the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands.”)*
			2. Romans 1:20; Colossians 1:16-17: He is the Creator of heaven and earth!
		4. For His majesty – Psalm 96:9-10
			1. Psalm 119:105: God is the King and Creator and as such He has given us His word for man to know His mind, and to have a guide through life.
			2. “All Scripture is inspired by God” (II Timothy 3:16-17)
			3. Jesus is “the King of kings and Lord of lords” (I Timothy 6:15-16)
	2. A thankful heart will praise God for all that He has done for us!

#### Give Thanks to God for His Judgments

* 1. Psalm 96:10-13: “For He is coming to judge the earth.”
		1. In times past God has judged the earth & His people – *II Peter 2:5-6:* The Flood, and Sodom and Gomorrah (II Kings 17; 25: Israel and Judah).
		2. He has promised to return and judge the world again in righteousness!
			1. *Matthew 25:31-46; II Thessalonians 1:7-9; II Timothy 4:8; I Peter 4:17*
	2. God’s judgments are righteous
		1. Romans 2:5: Wrath upon the impenitent person will be righteous because God has provided the means for salvation and His word for one to know how to obey!
	3. Because of God’s judgments in times past and to come, we can judge righteously!
		1. John 7:24: We are not to judge others according to appearance but to “judge with righteous judgment.”
		2. It is because of God’s word that we can know what is right and wrong (Hebrews 5:14), to know how to conduct ourselves (I Timothy 3:15), and be holy and blameless (Ephesians 1:3-4).
	4. God’s judgments are according to truth
		1. Psalm 96:13 (NKJ): “He shall judge the world with righteousness, And the peoples with His truth (NAS: “in His faithfulness”).
		2. Romans 2:1-4: We need to be careful in what and who we judge, that we not be guilty of the same things! *(Matthew 7:1-5: The log and the speck analogy)*
		3. Some teach we cannot judge. If that were the case then we would not care what happened in the church or in our lives; but we need to know there are things that can bring eternal harm! (Romans 1:32; I Corinthians 5)
	5. A thankful heart will give thanks to God for His righteous judgments and our ability to know right from wrong!

## Conclusion

1. To be ungrateful is to be like the 9 lepers! *(Lk. 17:11-19)*
	1. The account of the 10 Lepers is a reminder to us of the kind of hearts we are to have.
	2. Luke 17:17 (NKJ): “Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine?”
2. To be ungrateful is to be like the butler that forgot Joseph! *(Gen. 40:14, 21, 23)*
3. Ingratitude is a character of the wicked! *(Rom. 1:21; II Tim. 3:2)*
4. Thankfulness is a character of the faithful! (Ephesians 5:3-4, 19-20)
	1. Psalm 96:3: Tell of His glory among the nations, His wonderful deeds among all the peoples!
5. Let us have a thankful heart as we sing, “Count Your Blessings!”
6. If you are not a Christian, you need to be. Repent and be baptized into His name!
7. If a Christian in error, don’t wait till it’s eternally too late. Repent and be renewed!
8. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!