

# Abiding in "Thanks-Living"

## The Life of Wisdom

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### Text: Pslam 92<sup>(ESV)</sup>

- 1 "It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O Most High;
- 2 to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night,
- 3 to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre.
- 4 For you, O Lord, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy.
- 5 How great are your works, O Lord! Your thoughts are very deep!
- 6 The stupid man cannot know; the fool cannot understand this:
- 7 that though the wicked sprout like grass and all evildoers flourish, they are doomed to destruction forever;
- 8 but you, O Lord, are on high forever.
- 9 For behold, your enemies, O Lord, for behold, your enemies shall perish; all evildoers shall be scattered.
- 10 But you have exalted my horn like that of the wild ox; you have poured over me fresh oil.
- 11 My eyes have seen the downfall of my enemies; my ears have heard the doom of my evil assailants.
- 12 The righteous flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.
- 13 They are planted in the house of the Lord; they flourish in the courts of our God.
- 14 They still bear fruit in old age; they are ever full of sap and green,
- 15 to declare that the Lord is upright; he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him."

### Introduction

#### The Value of a Diamond

- »- Kent Crockett's wife Cindy lost the diamond from her wedding ring
- > Twenty years earlier, as a poor seminarian, he sacrificed to pay \$750 for the ring
- > It was less than half a karat with a small carbon flaw. It's true worth, however, was found in the love with which it's purchased.
- »- "Lord," I prayed, "Please show me where it is."

- > He found it in the parking lot of the bank where Cindy worked. He ran into the bank lobby holding it high and yelling "Look-I found it!"
  - > They hugged like the final scene of a romantic movie.
- > Quote: "Although we hadn't noticed the diamond that morning, it became the center of our attention that evening. We called our friends and relatives to tell them how our lost diamond had been found and then went out to dinner to celebrate."
- > Quote: "Had the value of the diamond changed? No. What had changed? Our perception of its value." (Kent Crockett, *I Once Was Blind But Now I Squint*, Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2004, 1-2).

### Life is more dazzling than a diamond ...

- > Some take it for granted and no longer see the sparkle. The thrill is gone.
  - ∴ Some have lost it.
    - Cynicism has replaced childlike faith
    - A cloud of self-concern darkens their worship
    - Anger has robbed them of an awesome gaze
  - ∴ Some have found it and embrace its true value
    - The reality is that life is an awesome experience when walked with God
    - Key: Never let perception rob you of that reality

## Living in Reality Produces "Thanks-Living"

"Thanks-Living" depends upon ...

### 1. Taking Command of Your Heart

Psalm 92:1 "It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to Sing praises to your name, O Most High;

2 to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night,

3 to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre."

#### Notes:

- > We are responsible for the condition of our hearts.

- » When David writes, "It's good to give thanks," the ramifications are far reaching.
  - It's morally good to thank the Creator, our heavenly Father
  - It's socially good, lifting the spirits of those bogged down in despair
  - It's emotionally good as it established healthy moods
- It's physically good as the body is directly impacted by the condition of the heart
  - It's intellectually good as it sets the agenda for proper thinking
  - Key: If our hearts are not in proper condition our perceptions of life will be disfigured
    - We see people in improper ways
    - We inadequately interpret events
    - We find little basis for thanksgiving

"Thanks-Living" depends upon ...

## 2. Engaging the Deep Ways of God

Psalm 92:4 For you, O Lord, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy.

S How great are your works, O Lord! Your thoughts are very deep!

Notes:

- » God has deep thoughts resulting in great works
- ~ Our level of thankfulness will rest directly on the depth of our understanding leading to the ability to see his great works

○ Example:

A boy playing with a toy truck in a sandbox is having great fun, but he will never build a Boulder Dam or Brooklyn Bridge. He must eventually enter a bigger world of thought and responsibility.

A girl playing with a toy doll is pretending to be an adult, but she will never raise her own child into adulthood playing with a doll. She must eventually emerge as a responsible mother.

Vital: never settle for a spiritual sandbox playing with toys.

Great "thanks-living" comes from digging for the deep thoughts of God and learning to perceive that grand works of God.

"Thanks-Living" depends upon ...

### 3. Having Confidence in God's Ways

Pslam 92: 5 How great are your works, O Lord! Your thoughts are very deep!

6 The stupid man cannot know; the fool cannot understand this:

7 that though the wicked sprout like grass and all evildoers flourish, they are doomed to destruction forever;

8 but you, O Lord, are on high forever.

9 For behold, your enemies, O Lord, for behold, your enemies shall perish; all evildoers shall be scattered.

Notes:

~ Vital: The Bible tells us to give thanks for all things, even when we cannot give thanks !!! all things.

~ Never be affected by the success of godless people

It's temporary.

The reward of the righteous is eternal.

~ Never allow a crisis to shape how you think

Shape how you think on God alone, then interpret crisis from your biblical view of God. Otherwise, perception always distorts into misperception, the misperception becomes your reality and your reality will diminish your view of God.

~ Thanks-Living is being thankful despite the momentary success of the wicked, even when they are blessed amid your darkest hour

o Example: David's Experiences at Bethlehem

o Probably born and raised in Bethlehem [House of Bread]  
(1 Sam. 17:12ff)

o High Point: Defeated Goliath near Bethlehem as a boy  
• A perfect for Thanksgiving

o High Point: Gathered followers at the cave of Adullam near Bethlehem

- 1 Samuel 22:1-2

1 "David departed from there and escaped to the cave of Adullam. And when his brothers and all his father's house heard it, they went down there to him.

2 And everyone who was in distress, and everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was bitter in soul, gathered to him. And he became captain over them. And there were with him about four hundred men."

- A perfect for Thanksgiving

- Low Point: Desperately thirsty during battle near Bethlehem

- 1 Chron.11:15-19

15 "Three of the thirty chief men went down to the rock to David at the cave of Adullam, when the army of Philistines was encamped in the Valley of Rephaim.

16 David was then in the stronghold, and the garrison of the Philistines was then at Bethlehem.

17 And David said longingly, 'Oh that someone would give me water to drink from the well of Bethlehem that is by the gate!'

18 Then the three mighty men broke through the camp of the Philistines and drew water out of the well of Bethlehem that was by the gate and took it and brought it to David. But David would not drink it. He poured it out to the Lord

19 and said, 'Far be it from me before my God that I should do this. Shall I drink the lifeblood of these men? For at the risk of their lives they brought it.' Therefore he would not drink it."

- An improbable time for Thanks-Living
- David's eyes are not on how he felt, or on how treacherous his situation, but on the steadfast ways of God

"Thanks-Living" depends upon ...

#### 4. Having Confidence in God's Victorious Strength

Psalm 92: 10 But you have exalted my horn like that of the wild ox; you have poured over me fresh oil.

11 My eyes have seen the downfall of my enemies; my ears have heard the doom of my evil assailants.

Notes:

- ~ The biblical term "Exalt my horn" means to raise up, give authority and be seated in victory over a defeated enemy.
- ~ Eph 1 :15-23"For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints,
  - 16 I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers,
  - 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him,
  - 18 having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,
  - 19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might
  - 20 that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places,
  - 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.
  - 22 And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church,
  - 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.
- > Eph. 2:4-6"But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us,
  - 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ- by grace you have been saved-
  - 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

"Thanks-Living" depends upon ...

## 5. Having Confidence in God's Future for You

Psalm 92 12The righteous flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

13 They are planted in the house of the Lord; they flourish in the courts of our God.

14 They ::till bear fruit in old age; they are ever full of sap and green,

15 to declare that the Lord is upright; he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him."

- ~ 1 Cor. 2:9"But, as it is written,  
'What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,  
nor the heart of man imagined,  
what God has prepared for those who love him"-

### Call to Action

#### Life is more dazzling than a diamond ...

- ~ Sadly, some have to lose it to regain its value
- ~ Thanks-Living depends upon five things ...
  - 1 Taking Command of Your Heart
  - 2 Engaging the Deep Ways of God
  - 3 Having Confidence in God's Ways
  - 4 Having Confidence in God's Victorious Strength
  - 5 Having Confidence in God's Future for You