

Did You Get Your Thanksgiving Catalogue?

Turnpike Wesleyan Church – November 22, 2020

Scripture Text: Psalm 103

Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits - who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. The Lord works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses, his deeds to the people of Israel: The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him; for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust. The life of mortals is like grass, they flourish like a flower of the field; the wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more. But from everlasting to everlasting the Lord's love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children's children - with those who keep his covenant and remember to obey his precepts. The Lord has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all. Praise the Lord, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word. Praise the Lord, all his heavenly hosts, you his servants who do his will. Praise the Lord, all his works everywhere in his dominion. Praise the Lord, my soul.

Introduction

Many of us like to peruse the **Christmas** catalogue looking at all the neat stuff we want. However, I think we need to spend a little more time looking at the neat stuff we already have. In Psalm 103 we find God's "Catalogue of **Blessings**," - not a Christmas catalogue but a **Thanksgiving** Catalogue.

There are 5 blessings we can praise God for:

1. He **forgives** our sins.
2. He **heals** us from our diseases.
3. He **redeems** our life.
4. He **crowns** us with love and compassion.
5. He **provides** us with good things.

How many here remember the phrase, "**Much obliged?**" "To be **obliged**," means that someone has done us a **favor** and therefore we are **indebted** to him or her for his or her kindness.

As we consider our blessings and think about the many things that have come our way, we surely must conclude that we are indeed "much obliged." **Much has been given to us; therefore we have a tremendous obligation.**

Consider Your Blessings

- ✓ If you woke up this morning with more health than illness - you are more blessed than the **six** million who will not survive the week.
- ✓ If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation - you are ahead of **500** million people in the world.
- ✓ If you can attend a worship service without fear of harassment, arrest, torture or death - you are more blessed than **three** billion people in the world.
- ✓ If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof over your head, and a place to sleep - you are richer than **75%** of this world.
- ✓ If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace - you are among the top **8%** of the worlds wealthy.

List the things you have; God gave you those things for your pleasure. However, your **attitude** about those things determines your **satisfaction**.

The unhappy person isn't always someone who didn't get what he

or she wanted. The unhappy person often is the one who got what he or she wanted and then found out that it wasn't as wonderful as expected. The secret of a happy life is not to get what you want but to live with what you've got. Most of us spend our lives concentrating on what we don't have instead of thanking God for what we do have.

Our problem is that we are looking at the Christmas catalogue **focusing** on what we want rather than **rejoicing** in what we have!

We need to look at the correct catalogue to keep things in proper perspective. We need to remember to think about what we **have** instead of dreaming about what we **want**.

Wrap-Up

God tells us that we should stand out as thankful people.

- ✓ Hebrews 13:15 ... Through Jesus, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise.
- ✓ Ephesians 5:20 ... always give thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- ✓ Colossians 3:17 ... And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.
- ✓ 1 Thessalonians 5:18 ... give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.