

# Thanksgiving Service 2023

## Psalm 100:4

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Media Reference Number JHX580

Wednesday, November 22, 2023

## Thanksgiving Devotion

Steve Hurlbert

Psalm 100:4

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving,

*And* into His courts with praise.

Be thankful to Him and bless His name.

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving

- This really speaks of a mindset – **a decision to be thankful!**
- The setting is a corporate entering in – a gathering together
- Our thankfulness in this context is certainly for Big-Ticket Items!
  - The gift of Jesus Christ and our Salvation through Him
    - PSALM 95:1-2 - Oh come, let us sing to the Lord!  
Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation.  
<sup>2</sup>Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving;
  - God's Holy Word – The Bible
    - One Year Bible reading – Psalm 119 – the psalmist is thankful to God for His Word  
<sup>1st</sup> 8 verses of today's reading - 6 references to God's Word!

**Psalm 119:17** - Deal bountifully with Your servant,

*That* I may live and keep **Your word**.

<sup>18</sup> Open my eyes, that I may see Wondrous things from **Your law**.

<sup>19</sup> I *am* a stranger in the earth;

Do not hide **Your commandments** from me.

<sup>20</sup> My soul <sup>[c]</sup>breaks with longing For **Your judgments** at all times.

<sup>21</sup> You rebuke the proud—the cursed,

Who stray from **Your commandments**.

<sup>22</sup> Remove from me reproach and contempt,

For I have kept **Your testimonies**.

<sup>23</sup> Princes also sit *and* speak against me,

*But* Your servant meditates on **Your statutes**.

<sup>24</sup> **Your testimonies** also *are* my delight *And* my counselors.

– His blessing and protection on us His people

I believe **a decision to be thankful** is also a mindset to be exercised in a Personal Thanksgiving to the Lord!

- How many of you go around the table at Thanksgiving and say what you are thankful for?

I'm thankful to the Lord and for my parents and a Godly heritage they gave me!

Proverbs 20:7 - *The righteous man walks in his integrity; His children are blessed after him.*

How do we define the "**righteous man**"

- It doesn't say "perfect man"
- To be righteous is to be right with God.
- **Proverbs 15:9** - The way of the wicked *is* an abomination to the Lord, But He loves him who follows (or pursues) righteousness.

What does it mean - "**Walks in his integrity**"

- Doing what God would want me to do . . . in each and every decision/situation.
- We have to be asking ourselves – What does God want?

**"His children are blessed after him"**

- I'm the recipient of the blessing described in that verse

Some of you may be saying . . . But Pastor Steve I can't be thankful for a Godly heritage – I don't have one! / Or I'm not even a parent

The challenge to those who **did not** have a Godly Heritage

You can set the foundation – begin the groundwork – How?

- Follow the Lord TODAY!
- You can purpose in your heart, to walk in integrity before the Lord.
- To obey Him in all that you do.

**Psalms 100:4** says - Enter into His gates with thanksgiving

My question to you:

Will you adopt an attitude/mindset of thankfulness?

Tomorrow is Thanksgiving - What will you be thankful for?

## Thanksgiving Devotion

Joel Pickett

### Psalm 100:4

4 Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, ***And into His courts with praise.*** Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.

**Throughout the history of English-speaking churches** this psalm has been known as the.... "*The Old One-Hundredth*". This would have been a psalm that ancient Israel would have sung as they gathered at the temple to worship the Lord. While there are other psalms that you could probably categorize as a thanksgiving psalm this is the only one that gives this distinct mark, "*A Psalm of Thanksgiving*"

### "Enter into" (what are we to do?)

**The fact that we have entrance into the presence of God is truly amazing.** It's something that we must not take for granted. The New Testament version of this entrance is the word **access**. *The Bible tells us that by faith in Jesus we have access to the Father through Him.*

**This call to enter in is really the message of the Bible!** *It is the message of God to humanity. Come to Me, draw near to Me, search for Me, ENTER IN.*

While we are to always enter **reverently** knowing that He is God, we get to enter **boldly** knowing He is our Shepherd, and we are the sheep of His pasture! He is our Father, and we are His children!

### "His Courts" (where are we to enter?)

Courtyard, this is an enclosed area. This is an obvious reference to what would have been the temple courts where God's people would gather to worship Him. The temple was where the manifested presence of God was with His people. *To enter into His courts is to enter into His presence!*

### Psalm 84:10-11

10 For a day in Your courts *is* better than a thousand. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God Than dwell in the tents of wickedness. 11 For the Lord God *is* a sun and shield; The Lord will give grace and glory; No good *thing* will He withhold From those who walk uprightly.

**Now under the New Covenant,** not only are we able to enter in through the gates and courts of God but the veil is torn, and the Holy of Holies is open for all who have the blood of Jesus.

### Hebrews 10:19

19 Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus,

### "with Praise" (how are we to enter?)

**Praise:** to offer words as an act of worship, adoration

**The Scriptures describe that God is worthy to be praised.** He is absolutely deserving of our words of affection and adoration towards Him.

**Psalm 96:4**

<sup>4</sup> For the Lord *is* great and greatly to be praised; He *is* to be feared above all gods.  
*His greatness is the basis for our praises!*

**This isn't only reserved for a single time of year or a single day but at all times!**

**Psalm 34:1**

I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise *shall* continually *be* in my mouth.

**And it is these very praises that the Bible says that God inhabits. Psalm 2** says that He is enthroned in the praises of Israel, better understood that He inhabits the praises of those who praise Him!

**And when it comes to us as New Testament followers of Christ,** this does not change!

**1 Peter 2:9**

<sup>9</sup> But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;  
**THIS IS OUR OFFERING, PRAISES TO GOD ARE OUR SACRIFICE**

**No other blood needs to be shed; no other animals need to be offered up. Now we offer up our praise and thanksgiving!**

**Hebrews 13:15**

<sup>5</sup> Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of *our* lips, giving thanks to His name.

## Thanksgiving Devotion

Shadrach Means

**Key Words:** Thanks, thanksgiving, Praise

**Psalm 100:1-5** “Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands! <sup>2</sup> Serve the LORD with gladness; come before His presence with singing. <sup>3</sup> Know that the LORD, He *is* God; *it is* He *who* has made us, and not we ourselves; *We are* His people and the sheep of His pasture. <sup>4</sup> Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, *and* into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, *and* bless His name. <sup>5</sup> For the LORD *is* good; His mercy *is* everlasting, and His truth *endures* to all generations.”

### The What

**Psalm 100:4** “Be thankful to Him, *and* bless His name.”

- *Be thankful to Him*
- *The verbiage means to use your mouth, and out loud thank HIM!!!*

- **Psalm 107:21-22** <sup>21</sup> Oh, that *men* would give thanks to the LORD *for* His goodness, and *for* His wonderful works to the children of men! <sup>22</sup> Let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare His works with rejoicing.”
- **Colossians 3:15-16** “let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another <sup>f</sup>in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”
- **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18** <sup>16</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup> in everything give thanks.”

*To All Ye Pilgrims: Inasmuch as the great Father has given us this year an abundant harvest of Indian corn, wheat, beans, squashes, and garden vegetables, and has made the forests to abound with game and the sea with fish and clams, and inasmuch as He has protected us from the ravages of the savages, has spared us from pestilence and disease, has granted us freedom to worship God according to the dictates of our own conscience; now, I, your magistrate, do proclaim that all ye Pilgrims, with your wives and little ones, do gather at ye meeting house, on ye hill, between the hours of 9 and 12 in the day time, on Thursday, November ye 29th of the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred and twenty-three, and third year since ye Pilgrims landed on ye Pilgrim Rock, there to listen to ye pastor, and render thanksgiving to ye Almighty God for all His blessings.* William Bradford, the governor of Plymouth Colony.

- **Bless Him**

- To bless the Lord means to praise Him, exalt Him, and worship Him.
- It’s a willful act of the heart to praise Him!

**Psalm 103:1-5** <sup>1</sup> Bless the LORD, O my soul; And all that is within me, *bless* His holy name! <sup>2</sup> Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: <sup>3</sup> Who **forgives** all your iniquities, Who **heals** all your diseases, <sup>4</sup> Who **redeems** your life from destruction, Who **crowns** you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, <sup>5</sup> Who **satisfies** your mouth with good *things*, *So that* your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.”

## **The Why**

**Psalm 100:5** “For the LORD *is* good; His mercy *is* everlasting, and His truth *endures* to all generations.”

- **Because He is good!**

- The word good is used 500 times in the Bible.
  - You wouldn’t know what bad was if there wasn’t good.
    - **Psalm 106:1** “Praise the LORD! Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *He is good!* For His mercy *endures* forever.”

- **Psalm 107:1-2** “<sup>1</sup> Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *He is* good! For His mercy *endures* forever. <sup>2</sup> Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, Whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy.”
- ***Because His mercy is everlasting***
  - The word mercy is translated into other Bible translations as...
    - Lovingkindness
    - Faithful love
    - Steadfast love
    - Unfailing love
- ***Because His truth endures to all generations.***
  - *Truth* – firmness, faithfulness, truth, honesty, and means to remain in one place.
    - Unlike our world where the definition of truth is always changing!
      - **John 8:31-32** “<sup>31</sup> If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. <sup>32</sup> And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”
      - **John 14:6** “I am the way, the truth, and the life.”