

The Lord's Day Morning

**“Gratitude for Spiritual Blessings”**

**Psalm 103:1-22**

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Scripture Lesson: Psalm 103:1-22

Introduction:

1. As congregation thank God for many things
    - a. No quarrels or fusses
    - b. Prospects for new building
    - c. Multitude of other things
  2. As individuals could fill many pages with list of our blessings
  3. But would speak this morning of spiritual blessings
  4. Only those who have a sense of spiritual values of life have a genuine spirit of thanksgiving
    - a. Materialist measures life on purely physical basis
      1. Materialist is seldom thankful
    - b. They feel they have earned these things for themselves
      1. So have no sense of gratitude
    - c. Generally not grateful because as a rule never satisfied
      1. Always grasping for more
    - d. It is only things physical things they can be grateful for
      1. When these things are not present in the abundance they desire then are not Grateful
      2. When are present claim they deserved them
  5. It is only those people who have a spiritual conception of life who are capable of real gratitude
  6. Look at some of the real spiritual blessings which are ours
    - a. Should bring to our hearts an overwhelming sense of gratitude and thanksgiving
- I. Am a child of God
1. Before can appreciate must realize do not deserve
    - a. We are sinful by nature
      1. Hearts naturally deceitful about all things
      2. Our natural tendency
    - b. Sinful nature expresses itself
      1. Jealousy – minister's wife criticizing husband because jealous of him
      2. Covetousness – want more and more for ourselves
      3. Selfishness – will do most anything to satisfy self regardless of hurt to Others
    - c. Surely when stand before God realize this
      1. Luke 5:8 – Jesus and drought of fishes
      2. Peter said depart from me for I am a sinful man
      3. Christ did not depart, vs. 10, said fear not
  2. God has made provision for our salvation

- a. Sent Christ to die for us
- b. Forgive us our sins
- c. Bring us into fellowship with Him
- 3. Do not deserve but it is our possession
  - a. Luke 15 – prodigal son
  - b. Peter called for by Lord after resurrection
- 4. Above everything else should be grateful for this

II. Have a heavenly home

- 1. This world is filled with difficulties
  - a. Family in Okalona who had lost boy during WWII. I told them of his blessing and theirs
- 2. Have many hardships and difficulties
  - a. Work hard
  - b. Suffer
  - c. Sorrow
  - d. Failures
  - e. Constant uncertainties
    - 1. Never know what tomorrow will bring
  - f. Great responsibilities
    - 1. Live
    - 2. Be good
    - 3. Be useful
    - 4. Be a Christian at all times
- 3. Someday all of this will end
  - a. Will be at home in heaven
  - b. Journey complete
- 4. Am grateful just a pilgrim

III. Have a divine companion through life

- 1. Christianity promises an end to our troubles etc.
  - a. Does not lull to indifference about facing them
- 2. So long as am here must face life
  - a. Difficulties
  - b. Responsibilities
  - c. Do best I can
- 3. Have divine companion
  - a. Moses led Israel
    - 1. Exodus 32 – broken law
    - 2. Exodus 32:34 – will send angel
    - 3. Exodus 33:3 – God said could not go
    - 4. Exodus 33:12 – Moses not go unless God goes
    - 5. Exodus 33: 14 – My presence shall go with thee
  - b. God promises to walk along this pilgrim way
    - a. Am sure He will walk with us
- 4. Can face this pilgrimage

- a. Sure will one day be over
- b. Sure God goes with us
  - 1. Responsibility
- 5. Thankful in midst of seeming insurmountable difficulties God will help

Conclusion:

- 1. We may, we do have many material things we can be thankful for
  - a. But would point to these great spiritual truths
- 2. Many earthly things
  - a. Family
    - 1. May lose and be left alone
  - b. Friends
    - 1. Be separated from
    - 2. They may forsake
  - c. Wealth
    - 1. May awaken and find it gone
    - 2. Security gone with it
- 3. But these great spiritual blessings are permanent
  - a. Am child of God
    - 1. Know I have God as Father
  - b. Earth not permanent abiding place
    - 1. Shall leave it for better home
  - c. So long as am here God will help me
- 4. Let us hold onto these great spiritual truths
  - a. Walk through life
    - 1. All difficulties
    - 2. All changes of circumstances
  - b. Sure of God and His blessings