

**Title: *“Thanksgiving: A Command, Challenge, and Comfort”***

**Scripture: Psalm 107**

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**Introduction**

 ***Colossians 1:28-29 - “Him we proclaim*** [referring to Christ]***, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all His energy that He powerfully works within me.”***

 Note: We are to be a thankful people; to ignore this reality is perilous to our spiritual health.

 Themes of Psalm 107…

 Wisdom: Psalm 107:43

 Sin & Repentance & Deliverance: Psalm 107:6, 13, 19, 28

 Thanksgiving: Psalm 107:8, 15, 21, 31

**I. THANKSGIVING…**

 **A. A Comprehensive Command**

 The Example of Jesus: ***Matthew 11:25-26; John 6:11; Matthew 26:26-28***

 The Example of Paul: ***Philippians 1:3-4; Colossians 1:3***

 The Example of the Psalmists: ***Psalm 30:4-5; Psalm 118:1***

 The Instruction to the Church: ***1 Corinthians 15:56-57; 2 Corinthians 2:14; 2 Corinthians 9:15; Ephesians 5:20-21; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; Revelation 4:9-10; Colossians 2:6-7***

 **B. A Continual Challenge**

 1) A lack of thanksgiving is a characteristic of the lost, not the redeemed.

 ***Romans 1:21 - “For although they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks to Him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.”***

 2) Unless we carefully guard our hearts and minds, our words can quickly become sinful.

 ***Ephesians 5:4 - “Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving.”***

 3) When we complain, (make no mistake about it!) it is sin against God.

 ***James 1:2-4, 16-17***

 **C. A Contagious Comfort**

 ***Acts 16:19-25 -***

 Note: They are able to see beyond their painful hard circumstances to something greater!

 ***Acts 5:40-41 - “…and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name.”***

 1) In any & every circumstance we can be thankful for the gift of eternal life.

 ***John 8:51; John 11:25-26***

 2) In any & every circumstance we can be thankful for the presence and love of Christ.

 ***Matthew 28:20; Romans 8:35-39***

 3) In any & every circumstance we can go to God in prayer.

 ***Psalm 32:5; Luke 18:1***

 4) In any & every circumstance we can rejoice in God’s providence and protection.

 ***Psalm 34:8; Psalm 119:67-68, 71; Matthew 6:31-32***

 5) In any & every circumstance we can be thankful that we are a part of the Body of Christ.

 ***1 Corinthians 12:18, 21, 26-27; Ephesians 4:13***

 ***1 Chronicles 29:10-13 - “Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of Israel our father, forever and ever. Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is Yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and You are exalted as Head above all. Both riches and honor come from You, and You rule over all. In Your hand are power and might, and in Your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. And now we thank You, our God, and praise Your glorious name.”***

**Take Home Questions for Further Study & Reflection & Application…**

1. In what ways are churches like hospitals and unlike hospitals?
2. What are some repeated themes and ideas that we see in Psalm 107?
3. What kinds of things did Jesus give thanks for?
4. Why do we find it difficult to be a thankful people? What does ingratitude and a lack of thanksgiving reveal about our hearts?
5. How is it that Paul and Silas could be worshipping while in prison? What were they focused on?
6. What are some things that should be continually motivating us to praise and thanksgiving?
7. How can you help encourage believers around you who are struggling to be thankful?