

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Psalm 100:1-5.**
- B. The very first time I ever read Scripture in the assembly I was in the 7th grade. It was up to me to pick the text and due to great nervousness I choose one of the shortest sections of the Bible that I could find! It was many years later, after some growth and maturity that I learned to appreciate the passage I selected on that day.
- C. In the Bible Jesus healed 10 lepers--only one returned to thank Jesus and praise God.
- D. There are many things for which we should be thankful each day. Be thankful for these: home, job, friends, church, health, Jesus, etc.

I. VOLUNTARY AND UNIVERSAL PRAISE.

- A. The text: Psa. 100:1.
Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth.
- B. Voluntary praise, "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord." This is something that you should do! God will not force you.
- C. Universal praise, "All ye lands." All people should thank and praise the Lord. God feeds the world everyday and how many are thankful?
- D. A thankful person will never be a complaining person.

II. PRAISE WITH SERVICE AND SINGING.

- A. The text: Psa. 100:2.
Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before Him with joyful singing.
- B. Service, "Serve the Lord with gladness." Living for Christ is a joyful experience. Serving Him is not a duty, but a pleasure (Col. 3:17; 1Jn. 5:3).
(Col 3:17) And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.
(1Jn 5:3) For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.
- C. Singing, "Come before his presence with singing." When a person is a Christian, his heart is filled with singing (Col. 3:16).
Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

III. THE PEOPLE SHOULD PRAISE GOD.

- A. The text: Psa. 100:3.
Know that the LORD Himself is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.
- B. Goodness, "Know ye that the Lord is good." Sin and Satan give nothing good, only God gives good things.
- C. Created, "He hath made us and not we ourselves." Made in God's image--given a soul. We can worship Him.
- D. God's people, "We are His people." Not God's people until we accept Christ as our Savior.

IV. THE PATTERN OF GIVING THANKS.

- A. The text: Psa. 100:4.
Enter His gates with thanksgiving, And His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him; bless His name.
- B. Thanksgiving, "Enter into His gates with thanksgiving." A thankful Christian is a happy, cheerful Christian.

- C. Praise, "Into his courts with praise." Praising God will increase our blessing. Failing to praise Him, ends it.
- D. Blessing, "Bless his name." His name is above all names. We need to praise His name over and over.

V. THREE REASONS FOR GIVING THANKS.

- A. The text: Psa. 100:5.
For the LORD is good; His lovingkindness is everlasting, And His faithfulness to all generations.
- B. First, God's goodness, "For the Lord is good."
- C. Second, God is merciful, His "Mercy is everlasting." God's patience never ends. Thank Him for His mercy (2Pet. 3:9).
The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.
- D. Third, God's faithfulness, His "Faithfulness to all generations." He does not double talk or lie. He is truth.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Begin today to make every day--Thanksgiving Day. Life will change, and you will be more happy when you begin to thank God. The happiest people in the world are the thankful people.
- B. One thing not mentioned in the introduction is that of being thankful for the plan of salvation.
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, for erring Xians.