

# ***The Provision of God as Our Lord and King***

***Psalm 107-118***



THIS IS THE DAY WHICH  
THE LORD HAS MADE.  
LET US REJOICE AND  
BE GLAD IN IT

PSALM 118:24

# ***MARCH 2018***

## Day 1

I want you to take time and list 20 things you are thankful for today. Do not move on until you write 20 things.

Was that hard for you? I hope it was and it wasn't. I hope it was in that you realize there are some good things you take for granted and don't even think to give thanks for like food, family, home, school, your Bible, prayer, etc. I hope it was easy in that you realize God is pretty amazing and he has blessed you in so many ways and you DON'T deserve it. May the things you are thankful for be on your mind as you read the Bible today. Ask God to give you a thankful heart.

### **Read Psalm 107:1-9**

What is the command of verse 1? Why is the command given?

List all the things in this Psalm that God's people were thankful to God for.

What does it mean that God loves his people with a "steadfast" love?

Why is that something that should encourage us?

Now think about God's "steadfast" love for you. What are 5 things that you need to be thankful for that you did not write in the first question?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

PRAYER – Give thanks for all you have written down today.

## **Day 2**

Describe a time when you were punished for something you did that was wrong?

Now describe a time when you did not get the full punishment of something you did because someone had mercy on you?

I hope you could think of two things for the above questions. In the span of our lives we do so many things that deserve punishment from childhood all the way through adulthood. There are so many instances from my childhood where I lied, or was disrespectful to my parents, or did not do my chores where my parents did not punish me as much as they could. They showed me mercy. And there were times when I did get punished and was grounded from everything and they reduced my sentence due to good behavior. They showed me mercy. Today we continue with Psalm 107 talking about what we have to give thanks to God for. Ask him to show you how He has been merciful to you in your life.

### **Read Psalm 107:10-22**

What did God's people do in verses 11 and 17 that deserved punishment?

Think about what they did, why was that serious?

How were they punished according to verses 10, 12, 17-18?

God took their sin serious. Then the people cried out to God. What do we see about what God did for his people when they cried out to him?

What are 3 ways you have rebelled and spurned God? Next to each one, write how God delivered you from that rebellion?

1.

2.

3.

PRAYER – Confess sin you are dealing with; thank God for his delivering you from your sin and rebellion.

## Day 3

What are 5 ways you see God's power in creation?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

In the span of a month we have seen 4 major hurricanes and an earthquake hit the Caribbean and southern USA. These were some powerful acts of nature. But it is not "mother nature" who sent these events. They really show us the power of God over all creation. To think these storms and events are part of the created order of our world. God shows us his power and our powerlessness. There is nothing we could do to stop these things. They point us to the Intelligent Designer, God. Ask God to give you a thankful heart as you think about all he has created as you read the Bible today.

### **Read Psalm 107:23-32**

What was the great act of God that the sailors experienced?

What was their reaction in verses 26 and 27?

They did not blame God or call him unloving or mean. Instead what did these men say in verse 28? What do you think they said to God?

What do we see about God's power in verse 29? How does this act give us a little picture of Jesus Christ? (see Mark 4:35-41)

According to verses 30 to 32, what was the attitude of the people towards God and his deliverance and work in their lives?

Think about natural disasters in your time. What are 3 things you can thank God for in the midst of them?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

PRAYER – Thank God in what you wrote in the 1<sup>st</sup> and last question.

## Day 4

If someone were to ask you, “what can your God do”? What kinds of things would you tell them?

I would tell people, my God spoke things into existence by the power of his word and each according to his kind. My God flooded the whole world so that everything was covered and provided for the needs of 8 people and all the animals on the ark. My God sent his only son to die on the cross for my sins and raised him from the dead so that through faith in him I also have passed from death to life. My God is powerful. No other God can do any of those things. Would you be able to stand up boldly and proclaim all your God has done for you? I hope that challenged you to think about the God you say you believe in and serve. Ask God to teach you and grow you today.

### **Read Psalm 107:33-43**

What do we see about God’s power over creation in “good” and “bad” ways, at least from our perspective, in verses 33 to 38?

What do these same verses show us about God's judgment on sin and wicked men?

How do they show us that God cares for his people?

Look at verses 39 to 42. How do we see God is powerful over all people, including powerful rulers and oppressed people? Why is that humbling?

In all these things we see the steadfast love of the Lord. How do you see the steadfast love of God in the midst of persecution and oppression?

PRAYER – Give thanks for how God cares for his people all the time.

## Day 5

If someone was to say, “I love you”, what kinds of things would you expect to see them do or hear them say to display that love?

It is often times so easy to say, “I love you.” We do it as a habit in response to our parents saying it to us. A spouse might say it out of habit to their spouse. Do we stop and realize what we are saying in those words? Do we realized the sacrifice that needs to happen on our parts to fulfill those words? It is not just a feeling but an action. We need to back up those words with action. If we say the words and yet despise the other person or never lift a finger to help them, do we really love them? Ask to challenge you in this area of your life as you study the Bible today.

### **Read Psalm 108:1-6**

When the Psalmist says his heart is steadfast to the Lord, what kinds of things would you expect to see and hear from him?

Is your heart steadfast to the Lord? Explain your answer.

How does the Psalmist show his steadfastness to the Lord in verses 2,3 and 5?

God's love is steadfast to us. How do we see His steadfast love in verses 4 and 6?

Give 5 ways you have seen God's steadfast love in your life.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

PRAYER – Give thanks to God for His love in what you just listed above.

## Day 6

Who is someone you consider to be pretty powerful? What makes them powerful in your opinion?

I just finished reading a really small book on Hitler and Nazi Germany. Hitler was a pretty powerful man. He was able to convince a nation it was okay to kill over 11 million people. He was able to mix little lies in the midst a lot of truths so that the people believe his agenda and ultimately followed him and his thinking. Jews, Christians, rebels, blacks, people with disabilities, homosexuals were all shipped to and killed in concentration camps. This one man had lots of power. He used it for evil and not for good. Real power corrupts people often times. Except in the instance of God. He had power that he used for good, to accomplish his purposes. Let us look at God's power and how it impacts human beings. Ask God to guide and teach you today.

### Read Psalm 108:7-13

Think about the words and pictures in verses 7 to 9. What is God saying about his power over the following nations:

1. Shechem –
2. Valley of Succoth –
3. Gilead and Manasseh –
4. Ephraim –

5. Judah –

6. Moab –

7. Edom –

8. Philistia –

How do we see that humans are powerless on their own in verses 10-12?

What do God's people acknowledge in verse 13? Why is that important?

What are 3 things in your life, that you need to acknowledge you are powerless to change? How can you let go and give them to God?

1.

2.

3.

PRAYER – Pray about these 3 situations. Give them to God.

## Day 7

Describe a situation when someone attacked your character or your faith. What are ways in which you reacted negatively to the situation?

What are ways in which you reacted positively?

In the *Star Wars* series, Darth Vader is the father of Luke Skywalker. Darth Vader has killed, tortured, and done all he could do to put down the rebellion against him and the Empire. He tried to have Luke frozen. He cut off his hand. He threatens his sister. He is not a nice man. Yet Luke, in all these bad things Vader has done, could not bring himself to kill his father. He has mercy on him. He is a better man than maybe most of us would be in the same situation. In the next 3 days we look at Psalm 109 and see how David reacts to his enemies as he calls out to God. Ask God to encourage you and challenge you through your reading today.

### **Read Psalm 109:1-15**

Look at verses 1 to 5. List what David said his enemies have done to him.

How do we see David's actions as the opposite of those men in the same verses? How is verse 4 his best reaction to them?

In verses 6 to 15, David prays against his enemies. List all he says to God about them.

What is one way we should use this prayer when we think of our enemies and what is one way we should not use it? Why?

1. Should use it –

2. Should not use it –

PRAYER – Pray for your enemies and ask God for us justice to be done.

## Day 8

What are 3 ways you see wicked people prospering in our world?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

How does that make you feel? Why?

Most of us hate injustice. We do not like to see wicked men prosper through hurting others, using people and abusing their power. If you think about most super heroes, they rise up to fight evil men, because nobody is fighting them and letting them get away with their crimes. I am not advocating vigilante justice, but saying there are a lot of people who would love to take justice in their own hands like many of our superheroes. Ask God to open your heart to his truths today.

### **Read Psalm 109:16-29**

What does David say about the actions of his enemies in verses 16 to 20?

How does he pray for and against them in these same verses?

What appeal does David make to God in verse 21?

What does David, the king, admit about his own power in verses 22 to 27?

Why would it have been so humbling for David to admit to God he was not in control?

You have to admit you are not in control of your life. It is part of being human and a worshipper of God. What are 4 areas of your life where you see you are not in control?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

PRAYER – Ask God to help you trust Him and His plan. Again, pray today for your true enemies.

## Day 9

Describe a situation where someone saved you from making a big mistake that could have cost you greatly?

How did you give thanks to that person?

In the *Back to the Future* movies, Marty goes into the future and sees his own life, marred by a poor choice where he was goaded into a car race and ended up hitting a very expensive car. It altered his life. He could not get a good job. He ended up living in a poor part of town. He could not play music anymore. His life was altered by this choice. But by his friend Doc Brown taking him to the future he could see his poor choice and when he went back to his own time, he was able to stop from doing that bad act and his future was wiped clean. Oh how much better it would be for us if we could go to our futures so we did not make mistakes. Thankfully we have people God puts in our lives to share their life experiences and help lead and guide us. I hope you lean on them. Ask God to apply His word to your heart as you read and study today.

### Read Psalm 109:30-31

What two things does David say he needs to do in verse 30?

What are 5 things you can give thanks to God for today?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

What are 2 ways you can give thanks to God in the midst of the people God has put in your life at home, school and church?

- 1.
- 2.

What does David say God does for his people in verse 31?

We are needy. We need God all the time. What ways have you experienced God's salvation from sin but also from other people?

PRAYER – Use verses 30 and 31 and your answers to them to guide your prayer today.

## Day 10

Do you ever wonder if God is in control of this world? Why or why not?

In the original *Jurassic Park* Ian Malcolm when seeing the power of the park with dinosaurs created by man says the following quote. "God created man. Man killed God. Man created dinosaurs. Dinosaurs ate man." Ellie Sadler jokingly pipes in, "Woman inherits the earth." The point of this quote was to say God is not in control or power, but man is. That could not be further from the truth. No matter how chaotic things seem in this world, as followers of Jesus we need to come back to the truth that God has created and he sustains this world, no matter how bad things seem to get. Ask God to encourage you in this truth today.

### Read Psalm 110

David was a powerful king. What words or phrases does he use in this Psalm to show his power is not from him but from God? Write them all down.

What would be humbling about these truths as a king?

Think about all that David says here, what does he tell us about this God that we serve and worship?

What does this show you about those who oppose God and his people?

Think about this Psalm and write a prayer of thanks to God for who He is and what He has done.

PRAYER – Pray the Psalm and the prayer you wrote above.

## Day 11

What are 3 great works of humankind? Why are they so great?

1.

2.

3.

The Great Wall of China is a great work of human kind. It spans a lot of miles, can be seen from space and was built to keep out the Huns and other enemies of China and it last to this day. The sticky note was a great invention as it serves as a good reminder and could be put anywhere, whether on a computer screen, desk, steering wheel or wherever to remind you of something you need to do. Lastly, is the building of an actual sized Noah's ark in Kentucky to serve as a reminder of the flood, how God saved Noah and how ultimately we are saved through Jesus Christ. These are some good works. They are nothing compared to what God has done. Ask God to help you reflect on the good works He has done in our world and your life as you read Psalm 111 today.

### Read Psalm 111:1-5

What is the Psalmist thankful for as you think about what he writes down in these verses?

He concentrates on God's works. Why is it important for us as followers of Christ to think about God's works?

When showing thanks, what are two ways we are to express that thanks according to verse 1?

Do you give thanks to God in your own heart? Why or why not? How?

Do you give thanks to God in the midst of other people? Why or why not? How?

**PRAYER** – Give thanks in your own heart and ask God for an opportunity to give thanks at church, with your family or with your friends.

## Day 12

When you think about the Bible, what are 3 things that pop into your mind, whether good or bad. Write them down. Then after writing all 3 write down next to them why you think that is your attitude towards the Bible.

1.

2.

3.

It is easy to take for granted the Bible. So many people have grown up in the church, or homes where the Bible is read continually. It is easy to just assume I have read it and I don't need to read it again. The Bible is not like other books where we read it and then shelve it forever. It is something we need to keep reading, studying and meditating on. The Bible exposes our sin, shows us our need for Christ and shows us how to serve Christ with our lives. You need to read the Bible every day. It is a command. Ask God to encourage and challenge you in your attitudes toward His word as you read it today.

### **Read Psalm 111:6-10**

What kinds of things does the Psalmist say about the Bible? List them all.

How do these truths challenge your attitude towards the Bible?

What does the Psalmist say in these verses about our salvation and our redemption? Again, list them all.

What does he mean that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom? Explain that phrase and why it is so important.

Write down 2 things you are going to change when it comes to your attitude and actions in regards to the Bible.

1.

2.

PRAYER – Pray about what you wrote above.

## Day 13

What are the rewards for being:

1. A good student –
2. A Good son/daughter –
3. A good worker at your job –

Just as there are rewards for the things you do listed above, there are rewards when we faithfully follow Jesus. Now we don't serve God to get the rewards, that would be works based and have you in mind and not God. But we do them to serve the God we love. And God will reward our faithfulness. The ultimate reward being eternal life because of our faith in Jesus Christ. Ask God to challenge you to think about how you have been faithful to God as you read the Psalms.

### **Read Psalm 112:1-5**

Look at verse 1. Why is the man blessed according to that verse?

What does it mean to fear the Lord in a godly way?

How do we delight in God's commandments?

According to verses 2 through 5, how does God bless his faithful followers?

Blessing is not always money or power or other possessions. God blesses us in many different ways. What are 4 ways you have seen God bless you in your life?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

PRAYER – Thank God for his blessings. Ask for help to be faithful to Him.

## Day 14

Describe a time when you went through something difficult and yet you trusted God fully with the situation?

Why do you think you trusted God so much in that situation?

William Carey wanted to be a missionary and felt the Lord calling him to do the work of missions. He wanted to go to India in the 1700's. The problem was that mission boards kept telling he could not go. He kept pursuing that calling to go to India. God opened a way for him to raise his support and to be able to go and start a work of sharing the Gospel in India. God used him in incredible ways, in good and bad times. He was faithful to God and God provided for his needs. It is a great story. I pray you have seen God carry you through difficult times in your life. What a blessing to see God open doors when it seems all doors are closed. Ask God to encourage you in these truths as you read from Psalm 112 today.

### **Read Psalm 112:6-10**

Think about verses 6 to 9, how are you encouraged after reading them?

How is the Christian characterized by these verses?

Now think about your own life. Which of these characteristics do you see in your own life? How do you see them?

Which ones do you need to work on? How can you work on them?

Lastly how are the wicked described in verse 10?

PRAYER – Pray all of Psalm 112. Pray the verses and about the verses.

## Day 15

What are 5 names of God that are important to you? Why?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

There are so many good names of God. Yahweh – meaning he is the Lord, the God of Israel, the one over all things. Jehovah Jireh – which means God is our provider. He gives us all things and provides for all of our needs. He is judge. That is important to me, because it means he does not excuse sin but holds us accountable to the wrong things that we do. These are just a few names. Ask God to help you appreciate his name, who He is, as you study the Word of God today.

### Read Psalm 113:1-3

What is our position before the Lord in verse 1?

What does it mean we are his servants?

Why should we praise the name of our master?

How long should we praise the name of the Lord according to verses 2 and 3?

What does it mean that the Lord's name deserves to be praised? What does that say about the Lord?

What are 3 things about God that you want to praise him for?

1.

2.

3.

PRAYER – Use the last question guide your prayer.

## Day 16

What are gods that people worship in our world and culture? Write down 4. Then next to each one write how they are dead and have no power.

1.

2.

3.

4.

I always like the picture of Elijah taking on all the prophets of Baal. They thought they had the most powerful god. They built their altar, danced and chanted, and called on Baal to burn up their sacrifice. Nothing. Elijah taunted them. He said he might be sleeping or you might not be talking loud enough. So the prophets yell louder, cut themselves as they call on Baal. Nothing. Elijah then pours water many times over on his sacrifice and then calls on God who consumes his sacrifice with fire. God showed his power of the gods the people had created. They were nothing. God was and is all powerful. Ask God to show you who He is and what He has done for you as you read the Bible today.

### Read Psalm 113:4-9

What are we told about who God is in verses 4 to 6?

Think about those words, what is the Psalmist saying about other gods?

What does God do for his people according to verses 7 to 9?

How do these things show that God is powerful, in control and worthy of our praise?

What needs of yours have you seen God provide? Take time and list all that come to mind.

PRAYER – Pray prayers of praise for all God has provided in your life.

## Day 17

What are two things that really scare you? Why are you scared of those two things?

1.

2.

I am scared of drowning. There is just something about not being able to get a breath of air and knowing you are about to die. I would not like that feeling. I also am scared that something bad is going to happen to my children when they are away from me, whether at school, away at college or just doing something away from the home. I am powerless at stopping whatever happens to them. Those are fears I need to deal with. They are not pleasant. We need to fear God. He is powerful and can do anything he wants to us. But our fear should not be a cowering in the corner type fear but one of awe and wonder and respecting who he is. As we look at God's power today, pray God would teach you His truths.

### Read Psalm 114

How do we see in verses 1 and 2 that God dwells with his people?

How would this fact have been encouraging to Israel?

How does it encourage you that God is with you wherever you go and whatever you do? How is it terrifying?

How do we see that creation fears the power of God in verses 3 to 8?

What does this show us about the character of God?

Be honest. Do you fear God? Why or why not?

PRAYER – Ask God to help you fear him with awe and wonder.

## Day 18

Describe two gods that people worship in our world today.

1.

2.

What sets those gods apart from the God we worship as Christians?

I love the line in the first *Avengers* movie when Thor grabs Loki away from Captain America and Black Widow. Black Widow tells him to leave it alone because Thor is a god. Captain America's response is, "There is only one God ma'am and I am pretty sure he does not dress like that." You see we can get some good theology from super hero movies. The God we worship is different than all other gods. He is not man made when all other gods are. He is alive when all other gods are dead. He is absolute power when all other gods have no power. Today we look at this concept in Psalms. Ask for a discerning heart as you study today.

### **Read Psalm 115:1-8**

How does the Psalmist acknowledge there is only one God in verse 1?

People will question where is God, especially in light of disasters and violence. What should our response be according to verse 2?

What does the Psalmist say about man-made gods in verses 4 to 7?

What does he mean that the people who worship and trust false gods will become like them? Think about what is said about man-made gods.

So if someone was to challenge the existence or power of God how would you defend who He is?

PRAYER – Pray for those worshipping other god, that they will come to faith in Jesus Christ.

## Day 19

Who is someone in your life that you trust with your life? Why?

It is such a lonely place to be, to not have anyone you can trust. You feel as if everybody has let you down. You feel you have nowhere to turn. That is a miserable way to live. Part of being a Christian is we have been told we can trust the Lord with all our hearts and not have to lean on our own understanding. It says he will make our paths straight. This is God's promise to use in Proverbs 3:5-6. But so many people do not trust God, but instead trust other men, money or themselves. A miserable end waits for them if they don't learn to trust the Lord. Ask God to challenge you in what you are trusting in as you read the Bible today.

### **Read Psalm 115:9-13**

Look at verses 9 to 11. What command are the people given 3 times?

Why do you think the people need to be told to do this 3 times? What kinds of things might they have been trusting?

What are we told 3 times as the reason to why we should trust the Lord?

What does that mean?

What does God do for his people according to verses 12 and 13?

What are ways in which he does this?

Do you trust the Lord? How do you know?

PRAYER – Ask God to help you trust Him and His plan.

## Day 20

Have you praised the Lord today? What did you say? If you did not, why?

We often can go days without praising God. Why? So many of us take God for granted. Just like we take food, clothes, school, our parents, church, the Bible for granted. It is one of those things we know is always there and so we don't think about it. We don't think about God because we get comfortable. This should not be, but sadly it is true among many who claim the name of Christ. Ask God to fill our heart and mouth and with praise for God as you read His word today.

### **Read Psalm 115:14-18**

In verses 14 and 15, who does the Psalmist ask to be blessed?

What are all the ways in which God blesses us and our children. Try to write down at least 10 things.

How does verse 16 show that all is God's?

What is a gift God has given us according to this verse? How should we take care of this gift?

Who cannot praise the Lord? Who does the Psalmist have in mind here?

As followers of Jesus we are called to bless the Lord, worship him, forever. What are 2 things you can change in your life to make sure you are taking that time to bless and praise the Lord?

1.

2.

PRAYER – Praise God for all you wrote down in this devotion.

## Day 21

Write down one person who you love. Now write 5 reasons you love that person. Who: \_\_\_\_\_

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

I love my wife. God gave her to me as a gift when I was not looking or searching, but was content with my life at the time. She is a wonderful partner in the experiences of life. She is strong where I am weak. She is a great mother to our four children and loves and cares for them in so many different ways. She loves being involved in the ministry of the church wherever and in whatever way is possible using her talents and spiritual gifts. These are just a few reasons as to why I love my wife. There are many more. Greater than the people we wrote down is the Lord our God. We are to love him. Ask God to move in your heart to love Him more and more as you read the Bible.

### Read Psalm 116:1-7

What do verses 1 and 2 say about why the Psalmist loves the Lord?

When you think about these facts, why would they be encouraging?

Because he knows the Lord loves him, what does the Psalmist pray in verses 3 and 4? Why would he be confident in this prayer?

What characteristics of God does the Psalmist mention in verses 5 and 6?

What does it mean the Lord deals with his people bountifully in verse 7? Look up the word if you don't know what it means.

Do you love the Lord? How do you know? How do you show it?

PRAYER – Use these verses to express your love for God.

## Day 22

When people who don't know Christ see you, do they see someone who is like everybody else, or someone who is different because of Jesus? Explain your answer and be honest.

There was a time in my walk with Christ where I looked and acted like the world. People would have seen a guy that was no different than anybody else. But the Lord got a hold of my life and radically changed me. So much so that a few years later I got a comment from a non-Christian kid that I had to be a Christian because I was different than all the non-Christians he knew. He saw something different in my actions and in my speech. He saw Jesus Christ at work. What do people see in you? Ask God to help you consider this questions as you read the Psalms today.

### **Read Psalm 116:8-14**

In verses 8 and 9, what does God do for his people?

How has God given you this hope? When did he give it to you?

How do we see in verses 10 and 11 that following Christ does not mean that life will be easy? Why do we need to see this truth?

What do verses 12 to 14 say about how we are to share the truth of who God is with other people?

What are practical ways in which we can do that in our modern day setting?

Who are 3 people or situations where you can share the love of God you have experienced through faith in Christ?

1.

2.

3.

PRAYER – Pray for those 3 people or situations.

## Day 23

What does it mean to be a servant? What do they do and not do? What is their attitude towards serving?

I always seem to talk about superheroes. It is hard not to; it is wired into my DNA. Alfred, Bruce Wayne's butler, is a great picture of a servant. He serves his master through thick and thin. He is there when Bruce's parents are killed to raise him, but not as a father as a servant, always appealing to the wishes of young master Wayne. He is Bruce's right hand man when he becomes Batman. He monitors his goings and comings. He stitches his wounds. He is there at Bruce's beckon call both as Bruce Wayne and Batman. He is loyal and never gives up serving Bruce. This is an imperfect picture of how we are servants of God. As you read Psalm 116, may you be challenged in how you are serving God.

### **Read Psalm 116:15-19**

What is precious to God in verse 15?

It seems backward, but why would the death of God's people be precious to God?

Why does the Psalmist pledge loyalty and service to God according to verse 16?

What are we all bound to that God has freed us from? Why should that motivate us to serve God?

How did the Psalmist show that he served God in verses 17 to 19?

How can you serve God in the ways the Psalmist talks about here?

What is keeping you from serving God with your whole being?

PRAYER – Ask God to help you serve him in all areas of your life.

## Day 24

What are 3 things that seem like they will last forever? Write why it seems that way next to them.

1.

2.

3.

When the Yankees do not get to the World Series, yet again, it seems like forever since they ever won a world series. Though it has only been about 10 years. Or take a Twinkie, those things can be left for a long time, only to be opened and taste the same as if you ate it fresh out of the bakery. That should make you think twice before you eat a Twinkie. My last thing would be seminary. I did it in 15 years. It seemed like an eternity until I was finished taking classes, writing papers, taking exams. Yet it did come to a close. Forever. It is not a concept in our finite human minds that we can wrap our heads around. Yet the Bible talks about forever, about eternity all the time. Let us look at it in the context of our Psalm today. Ask God to encourage you in your faith.

### Read Psalm 117

Why should the nations praise the Lord? What has he done for them? Write as many things as you can think of.

Extol means to praise enthusiastically. In the ESV version of the Bible, that is the word used in verse 1. Think about your life, why should you praise God with enthusiasm? Again, list all that you can think of.

How would you define steadfast love?

Think about your definition. How is God's love steadfast? How is that encouraging to you?

How is this love God shows us the opposite of how we often love others?

PRAYER – Thank God for His love; Ask God to help you love others.

## Day 25

What are two ways in which you fear people? Next to each one write why you fear them in this way.

1.

2.

In many movies and television shows you will see people make decisions to help the bad guy because they bad guys has threatened their loved ones. They are afraid of what people will do to those closest to them. Of course that is Hollywood. But how many people do something really dumb, like stealing something, or getting drunk, or even hurting someone because they want to fit into a group of friends or a gang. They know if they don't do it then they will be looked down on or maybe in extreme circumstances they will be hurt. We can do some dumb things when we fear other people. Ask God to teach you important truths through the Psalms today.

### **Read Psalm 118:1-9**

Look at verses 1 to 4. They build on Psalm 117. What are the reasons the Psalmist and the people have for saying God's love endures forever?

The Psalmist then shares why he believes in the steadfast love of the Lord. What reasons does he give in verses 5 to 9?

When you think about his words in verse 6. What can man do to us?  
What can man not do to us?

How does God challenge us to not do things to fit in and serve other people in verses 8 and 9?

Think about your life. What are ways you are trusting and putting your faith in people more than you are God? Write who, how and why.

**PRAYER** – Pray about that last question, that you would trust God more than you would trust man.

## Day 26

Think of people who are surrounded on every side by their enemies. What kinds of things do they think, feel and do in that kind of situation?

I love the old Disney mini-series on the life of Davy Crocket, the King of the Wild Frontier. The last part of the series is Crockett's stand at the Alamo against Santa Ana and the Mexican army. They were outnumbered and surrounded. Their food, ammunition and overall spirits were getting lower and lower. But those men decided that they were going to fight until the end, to give Texas a chance to gather their army together to stop Santa Ana from going any further north. In the midst of their imminent defeat they still talked, sang, joked. While at the same time dealing with the weight of their soon to come deaths. Most of us don't know the feeling of being surrounded. As Christians we are sort of in this boat though, being surrounded by people who want nothing to do with God and giving us a hard time because we do. That is what we will look at today. Ask God to give you confidence in boldness as you read.

### **Read Psalm 118:10-16**

Look at verses 10 to 13. What do we see about the Psalmist's enemies from these verses?

How was he able to have victory over a big and powerful enemy?

In victory, how do we see the Psalmist giving God all the credit according to verses 14 to 16?

Think about your life, how is Christ your refuge, salvation and how does he do valiantly for you? List at least 4 things.

What are ways in which you are trying to take credit for your victories over your enemies where you should be giving God the credit?

PRAYER – Give thanks to God for salvation; ask forgiveness for when you try to take the credit or even do things on your own.

## Day 27

What are 4 things you should avoid if you don't want to die?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

According to the movie *Groundhog Day* 4 things to avoid so you don't die are as follows: Don't take a toaster in the shower with you, don't drive your pickup truck off of a cliff, don't jump from the bell tower of a tall building, and don't play chicken with a truck. Duh! There are always goofy things people put together as to how we avoid death. But every single human being has a death sentence on them. We are going to die. So how do we avoid death? Only through Jesus Christ. Let us look at how we can avoid death and embrace life through our study of Psalm 118 today. Ask God to grow you in your knowledge so you can serve Him.

### **Read Psalm 118:17-24**

What are ways in which God delivers us from death?

Look at verse 18. We see God disciplines his people. How does God discipline us so that may live and not die?

Look at verses 19 to 23. What kinds of things do we need to say or attitudes do we need to have when it comes to our salvation?

How do we see in these same verses that our salvation is all the Lord's doing and not ours at all?

What is the Psalmist's word of praise in verse 24? Think about his life and what he just wrote. Why does he sing in this way?

Write your own little song of praise when you think about how God has delivered you from death to eternal life through Jesus Christ.

PRAYER – Pray what you just wrote and the Psalm you just read.

## Day 28

What are 3 ways God has worked in your life over the last month?

1.

2.

3.

I hope you can look all around you and see God at work in your life. Take a step outside and look around you and see how God has worked in all things He has created. Look at your church or youth group and see the ways in which God is changing hearts and lives and working in situations of people you worship with each week. Or take a look at your own walk of faith. You should be dead and yet in Jesus Christ, through faith in Him, God has made you alive. The God we get to serve is amazing. He has worked wonderfully and yet we take him for granted and often do not lift our voices with thanks. Ask God to help you praise and thank Him for the gift of life as you read Psalm 118 today.

### Read Psalm 118:25-29

What two things is the Psalmist asking for in verse 25? Next to each one write how you can ask for the same thing.

1.

2.

What does that verse show us about God's complete power and control?

According to verses 26 to 28, what do the people do and say as they see all that God has done for them?

What are 5 things you are thankful to God for today?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Think about verse 27. In what ways and in who did God make his light to shine upon us? Why is that important for us to know and acknowledge?

God's steadfast love endures forever! The Bible says so. Do you believe that? Why or why not?

PRAYER – Pray this section of Psalm 118 and about it.