

PSALM OF THANKS

Saturday, November 25

Reading: Psalm 100

Psalm 100:4 *Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name.*
5 *For the LORD is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations.*

One eager young schoolteacher in Texas gave her fourth grade students a perplexing homework assignment. She wanted them to explore how Thanksgiving is celebrated in other countries! Parents were confused to say the least. While the teacher had the right idea, she forgot that the Thanksgiving holiday is unique to America and Canada (who celebrate it on the second Monday in October). Some countries have similar festivals, but Thanksgiving Day is primarily a North American tradition

But there is no reason that the act of thanksgiving should be tied down to one day or a certain place. Psalm 100 is one of the classic psalms of thanksgiving. It is addressed to “all the earth.” As we conclude our week focused on thankfulness, let’s look at the important words that this psalm wants to engrain in our minds and hearts.

SHOUT FOR JOY (100:1) – This word was used primarily for making a loud noise. That is why other Bible translations say “make a joyful noise.” Thankfulness should not be a quiet thing. It is something we want to share and shout to the world.

WORSHIP (100:2) – This Hebrew word has multiple meanings. It can mean to worship, to serve, or to work. Did you ever consider that our work should be an act of worship to the Lord? Whether in the church or in the workplace, we should conduct our activities with joyful praise to the Lord. We are in His presence at all times because we belong to Him.

KNOW (100:3) – This word “know” means to learn, to know by experience, to consider and discern. We can know God first because He made us in His image. But we can know God even better because He is our Shepherd. He guides and cares for His people with love and mercy.

Because of our knowledge and love for God, our lives should be filled with praise and thanksgiving (100:4). Our focus should be on our wonderful God. We should thank Him for his goodness and His eternal love and faithfulness (100:5).

Thanksgiving should not be a one-day event! It should be a daily habit that fills all our days with joy and singing. Memorize this chapter and keep it in your heart. Then you will have thanksgiving all year long.

¹ From Today in the Word devotional from Moody Bible Institute quoted @ https://www.preceptaustin.org/psalms_-_today_in_the_word_2