

David's Grateful Heart 2 Samuel 7

INTRODUCTION

Did you have a good **Thanksgiving Day**? Did you take some time to give thanks to God? **Giving thanks is too often demoted to a secondary place in the lives of people, especially in the lives of God's people.** Truthfully, we are quick to make our requests and slow to thank God for His answers. Because God so often answers our prayers, we come to expect it. We forget that it is only by His grace that we receive anything from Him.

Gratitude...doesn't go a long way. **Haven't you noticed that we are a clan of complaining ingrates?** Ingratitude is a characteristic of those in rebellion against God. It was because of grumbling and ingratitude toward God that Israel was laid low in the wilderness (**1 Cor. 10:10; Ps. 95:8-11**). In Paul's treatment of human depravity, ingratitude is included in the awful list of sins that lead to God unleashing His wrath upon society.

On the other hand, Christ-followers are expected to be grateful people. Here's a **thought: "a spirit of joyous, continual thankfulness ought to characterize us as Christians."** Thanksgiving is mentioned approximately 140 times. In the Bible we find the Israelites giving thanks in **Exodus 15**; Israel giving thanks in **2 Chronicles** for the construction of the temple; we find King David giving thanks in **Psalms 100**; the prophet Daniel giving thanks in **Daniel 6:10**. We also find the apostle Paul giving thanks in many places throughout the New Testament. He exhorts followers of Jesus to *"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."* (**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**)

For this morning, I would like for us to turn to one of the greatest chapters in the Bible. Please open your Bible to **2 Samuel 7**. What makes this chapter great? Well, it's the chapter that deals with God's covenant with David. This chapter contains what is known as the Davidic Covenant. The Davidic Covenant refers to God's promises to David through Nathan the prophet and is found in **2 Samuel 7** and later summarized

in **1 Chronicles 17:11-14** and **2 Chronicles 6:16**. In short, **this is an unconditional covenant made between God and David through which God promises David and Israel that the Messiah (Jesus Christ) would come from the lineage of David and the tribe of Judah and would establish a kingdom that would endure forever (2 Samuel 7:10-13).**

In today's passage, I would like for us to consider this main truth: **a thankful heart _____ on the sovereign grace of God.** David's focus was upon God, His purpose, and His sovereign grace.

What do I mean by this statement? A thankful heart is...

I. _____-focused, not _____-focused

Think of where David was at: He was king of Israel after years of hardship. He had defeated many enemy nations. He was established comfortably in his capital city in a nice palace. He was a famous, powerful man, with many serving him. He easily could have become self-focused. He could have got caught up with enjoying the good life and had no concern for the things of God. But he didn't.

Instead, his thoughts turned toward the Lord and His purpose. He had a burden for God to be central in the nation, for God to be worshiped by His people. He wanted to build a temple which elevated the Lord to His proper place. David could not rest content while God's house was not a reality. David's heart was focused on God, not on himself. So even when God said no to David's dream, David was overwhelmed with gratitude for God's sovereign grace toward him.

A thankful heart is God-focused, not self-focused and is...

II. _____ to God's purposes, not one's own purposes (visions of grandeur vs God-honoring desires)

B. God's favor in the _____ (7:8b)

C. God's favor in the _____ (7:10-16, 19)

Thus, a thankful heart is focused on God, not self. A

thankful heart submits to God's purposes and is...

III. _____ by God's grace, not one's own measure of _____

CONCLUSION

What can we take with us this morning? The call of God to His people is to give thanks. Sadly, people are not prone to being grateful. People say, "*If only I had a better job,*" or "*If only I had a better spouse,*" or "*If only I didn't have problems.*" Tragically, people do not cultivate an attitude of gratitude. Child of God don't forget that a **thankful heart focuses on the sovereign grace of God**. May we all deal with the sin of ingratitude and become a thankful people to the praise of the glory of His grace!

Please note the grace shown toward David:

A. God's favor in the _____ (7:8-9, 18)