

The Song of the Redeemed Psalm 103

INTRODUCTION

QUESTION: *How does an atheist celebrate Thanksgiving? Why don't atheists wage war against Thanksgiving Day?* After all, they are so concerned about discrediting Christmas that they bypass a national holiday set apart specifically to give thanks to God. Sadly, commercialism is not only a threat to Thanksgiving but the undoing of the holiday set aside to give thanks to God for His blessings and provision. **The truth of the matter is that many in our day (even fellow Christians) are not philosophical atheists but practical atheists.** Too many people honor God with their lips but contradict their message with the choices they make not only on Thanksgiving but year-round.

Ingratitude is a characteristic of those in rebellion against God. On the other hand, Christ-followers are expected to be grateful people.

The Lord has given us in the Bible a book which helps us learn to express our praise and thanksgiving to God. I'm referring to the book of Psalms which is filled with chapters that tell us how to express our thanksgiving unto God. Please turn in your Bible to Psalm 103.

I. _____ He is (103:1)

Thanksgiving is truly sponsored by the letters G-O-D. **WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?** We need to understand that without God, we would be in big problems. **We tend to underestimate God's role in our lives.** In fact, we tend to take things for granted and forget that it is Jehovah who is behind the scenes working everything out for our good and for His glory.

One of the main reasons we wrestle with ungratefulness is that we're self-focused. We tend to pursue our own fulfillment, comfort, and happiness. The dominant theology in American Christianity puts man and his happiness at the center instead of God and His glory. It teaches that God exists to meet our needs. We're even being told that Christ died for us because we're so worthy! **So, we have people who by nature are self-centered coming to Christ to get an "abundant life" which they think is their right, which they assume will fulfill all their needs.** But they've never repented of their self-centeredness. Then they become disappointed when God doesn't do what they think He promised to do. We have churches filled with people who are there to get God to solve their problems and make them happy. Do they want their problems solved so that they can more effectively glorify and serve God? No! They want their problems solved so that they can enjoy a happy life.

- **Low views of God cause people not to be grateful to God. High views of God cause us to be grateful to God.**

II. What He does (103:2-18)

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

D. _____

E. _____

F. _____

What follows in vv. 11-18 is remarkable. *The psalmist describes or measures God's favor.*

1. How high is His mercy & grace?
2. How wide is His mercy & grace?
3. How can we understand His mercy & grace?
4. How extensive is His mercy & grace?

III. Where He dwells (103:19)

The psalmist calls for universal praise; yet he ends like he started: individual praise (103:20-22)

CONCLUSION

1. Do you have any real _____ in these blessings?

I want to remind you that **the truth of the gospel is that even though we deserve God's wrath, we have been extended mercy and grace through Jesus Christ.**

2. Is there any real _____ to God in your heart?

Child of God don't forget that **a thankful heart**
_____ **on God.**

May we all deal with the sin of ingratitude and become thankful people to the praise of the glory of His grace!