Subject: *Be Grateful for God's Goodness*
Scripture: *Psalm 107:1-9*

Psalm 107 was a favorite psalm of the English Puritans who sailed to America and it came to be known as "The Pilgrims' Psalm." When the Pilgrims came ashore from the *Mayflower* at Plymouth Rock in 1620, Governor William Bradford referred to this psalm and made it the basis of his address. Psalm 107 is about God's goodness to His people in all seasons and trials of life. Like our Pilgrim forefathers, we need to thank God for His goodness.

1. THE PRAISE OF GOD'S GOODNESS (vs. 1-3)

Psalm 105, 106, and 107 all begin with the same call to give thanks to God.

    A. His goodness and mercy

In verse 1, the writer calls for thanksgiving and praise to God because He is good and His mercy endures forever. The Hebrew word translated "mercy" is translated "goodness" in verses 8, 15, 21, and 31, and is translated "lovingkindness" in verse 43. God's goodness is one of His main attributes and "mercy" is God's covenant love by which He binds and devotes Himself to His people.

Exodus 33:18-19 [18] *And he said, I beseech thee, show me thy glory.* [19] *And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy.*

Psalms 34:8 *O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.*

    B. His redemption

This originally referred to the Jews who were redeemed (delivered) from the hands of their enemies in foreign lands (vs. 2-3). Through His prophet Isaiah, God promised to redeem them and bring them back home again.

Isaiah 43:5-6 [5] *Fear not: for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west;* [6] *I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth.*

They had been redeemed from Egypt to the south, from Syria and Assyria to the north, from the Philistines to the west, and from Babylon to the east. Throughout history, God has been redeeming His people from sin, from the power of Satan, and from this present evil world.

Galatians 1:3-4 _³ Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴ Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father._

1 Peter 1:18-19 _¹⁸ Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; ¹⁹ But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot._

2. THE PICTURES OF GOD'S GOODNESS (vs. 4-32)

This section of the psalm describes four situations that illustrate how God rescued people in need. Each situation follows the same sequence: 1) a predicament; 2) a plea for help (vs. 6, 13, 19, 28); 3) a special provision; and 4) a call for praise (vs. 8, 15, 21, 31).

    A. Rescue from a wilderness to a city (vs. 4-9)

This probably refers to Israel's 40 years of wandering in the wilderness after the exodus from Egypt. God satisfies the longing soul and He fills the hungry soul with goodness. God's one requirement is that we must realize our need of Him.

    B. Rescue from prison to freedom (vs. 10-16)

This probably refers to the 70-year captivity in Babylon. Isaiah used similar words to describe how God would rescue them.

Isaiah 45:2 _I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight: I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron._

These people were suffering in bondage because they rebelled against God's Word and despised His counsel and wisdom. In other words, they deserved to suffer for their disobedience, but God still showed His goodness and delivered them from their trouble.

    C. Rescue from affliction to relief (vs. 17-22)

These verses refer to the consequences of self-made troubles. They acted like "fools" (vs. 17) because turned away from God. The people suffered as a result of their sins. This may refer to Israel's murmuring and rebellion and their deadly punishment from the plague of snakes in Numbers 21:4-9.

    D. Rescue from a storm to a calm (vs. 23-30)

All of these examples of man's desperation and God's intervention may refer to events that took place in Israel's history or they may be general examples of God's goodness to people in need. God deserves to be praised for His abundant mercy and goodness.

3. <u>**THE POWER OF GOD'S GOODNESS (vs. 33-43)**</u>

These verses focus on examples of how God reacts when His people are disobedient and when they are obedient. God has the authority to bless us or to take away our blessings. He can do whatever He wants to do according to His sovereign will. Job understood this:

Job 1:21 *…the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.*

    A. <u>He turns prosperity into poverty (vs. 33-34)</u>

The contrast is made between fruitfulness and drought. This may refer to the three years of drought in the time of Ahab and Jezebel (1 Kg. 17-18).

    B. <u>He turns barrenness into blessedness (vs. 35-38)</u>

This may refer to the time of Abraham (Gen. 24:34-35) or Joshua (Josh. 24:13).

    C. <u>He humbles the proud (vs. 39-40)</u>

This may refer to the Assyrian (2 Kg. 17) or the Babylonian captivity (2 Kg. 24).

    D. <u>He lifts up the poor (vs. 41-42)</u>

This may refer to the Jews who were enriched with Egyptian gold and treasures (Ex. 11; 12). Verse 43 is a closing word of application. A wise person will learn from the examples given in this psalm. A wise person will give careful thought to the truths in this psalm and will have a better understanding and deeper appreciation for God's goodness.

This is where we often fail. We don't learn the lessons of history and we don't think deeply and often about God's goodness. We don't realize the blessing of pondering and meditating on God and His ways.

<u>**How should you respond to God's goodness in your life**</u>**?**

    1) <u>Repent of your sins</u> – "The goodness of God leads you to repentance" (Rom. 2:4)

    2) <u>Trust and obey God</u>

    3) <u>Thank God</u>