

Psa 107:8 LET THEM THANK the LORD

This Psalm is about giving thanks to God – and at the beginning of another new year it is appropriate to say the least, that we **focus** on giving thanks to God. One of the sins which the Scriptures mentions about the wicked is that they are **unthankful!** To receive such blessings as we receive daily, and not to appreciate them, and to take them for granted is grievous to God. In the downward trend of [Rom 1] we read “*although they knew God, they did not...give thanks to Him*”[21] And Paul includes the “**ungrateful**” among the wicked in [2Ti3:2]

You know, even when an **unbeliever**, in his **ignorance**, but aware of 'Some Outside Power' 'delivering' him from some near disaster, if he **gives** thanks even to a 'Power he does **not** know', that is **infinitely better** than completely rejecting the notion of a Divine Providence taking care of us! To **be** thankful without knowing the Divine characteristics and to walk **humbly** as a result, is **much more honouring** to God than unbelief in God! It is **one thing** to be **ignorant** of something, it is **another** thing to **reject** and refuse to believe something

Some time ago on TV a girl in Edinburgh, who lost both hands and both feet thru a disease, spoke to **encourage** us to **look forward with hope** to a new year (2006). She was lovely in her **positive outlook** despite the awful trauma she faced but overcame. Her **uncomplaining** attitude/**thankful** spirit was indeed a wonderful **gift** from God! I don't know is she a Xn, but she received **grace** from God! She certainly was **not** unthankful! She was grateful for the artificial limbs that was fitted so she could drive and make tea, etc. What an example to each of us as Xns to be thankful for all the mercies we have.

Now we **cannot** give God **enough thanks!** “**Who can** utter the mighty deeds of the LORD, or declare **all** his praise?”[106:2] **No one** really can. “**What shall I render to the Lord for all His**

gifts to me?" The solution David came up with was to **renew** our **vows** to the Lord in the cup of thanksgiving! [116]

We must not just **be** thankful but be able to **express** it to God Himself **and** to **others**. That is what He tells us in this psalm – God's people are to "**say**" the Lord is **good**. "*Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good...Let the **redeemed** of the Lord **say so***"[1] Xns need to say this far more often than they do.

This Psalm provides the **answer** to the person (Xn?) who says 'I am not enjoying life! I am bored! I'm fed up!' The **answer** is to find joy in God, by being **thankful**! The good old hymn 'Count your many blessings...!' Having a **thankful heart** – to see God's goodness where it is - **everywhere**! To **appreciate** what we already have, brings peace to the soul.

If we are truly thankful to God for what we already have (ie if we **recognise** that all we have is from God and that we are unworthy of it), then God **will** give us **even more satisfaction**. "*Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of men! **For** he **satisfies** the longing soul, and the hungry soul he **fills** with good things*" [Psa 107:8,9] James "*He gives **more grace***" to the humble!

If you are **feeling empty/dissatisfied**, then try to recognise all God's goodness to you and praise Him.

This Psalm **encourages** all **kinds** of people to give thanks to God – because He hears and answers many prayers! **all kinds of people** receive blessings from God when they call on Him. "*The eyes of all look to you, **and** you **give** them their food in due season. You open your hand; you satisfy the desire of every living thing*"[Psa 145:15cf]. This psalm is full of all **classes** of people giving thanks to God for His wide range of mercies! On the sea and on the land – and receiving an answer!

Psa 107 tells us about the **heathen** "**some** who sat in darkness ...**rebelled** against the words of God...and **spurned** the counsel

of the Most High”[10,11], that they “**fell down...then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and He delivered them from their distress**”!![13] Even the **heathen** when they call on God can be heard! What kindness from God. God **encourages** even the wicked to turn to Him for everlasting life.

Even “**fools...through their sinful ways...drew near to the gates of death. Then they cried to the Lord...and He delivered them...and healed them**”[20]. What **encouragement!** Truly God is good to all. How we ought to encourage the most wicked to call on the name of the Lord! **APP** Do you know any fools – who may be drinking themselves to death this new year?

The **businessman** who **travels** the seas is also encouraged to call on God “*Some went down to the sea in ships; doing business on the great waters, they saw the deeds of the Lord, His wonderful works in the deep...their courage melted away in their evil plight*” And what then? “**Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and He delivered them from their distress**”[23-28] What reasons for praise to God! How many stories there are of 'big' men, who when confronted with death staring them in the face, their bravado against God, **melted!**

APP You know businessmen who travel the world have an advantage over the rest of us who do not see the great works of God. Remember every time you see some great masterpiece, whether **painting** or a **building**, or a **bridge** – it was **God** who gifted these men! “*Let them thank the Lord for His steadfast love, for His wondrous works to the children of men*”[31]

The Psalmist also, seems to encourage all these people to come along to the **public means** of **grace** (Church!) - “*Let them extol him in the congregation of the people, and praise him in the assembly of the elders*”[32] Root for assembly is the word for 'congregation'!

It is so **important** that you **make** time to 'give thanks' to God for **specific** mercies! In the OT, the Saints when they were deeply grateful, they used to 'built an altar' to God. They wanted to leave a visible 'testimony' for others to see – and for others to **ask questions** – so they could answer and take the opportunity to talk and explain about God's wonders!

Two final points: One – Very often we hear Xns **complain** (even Asaph in Psa 73) at the **prosperity** of the wicked!! And all of **us** have grieved at it too! Why does God continue to **bless** these wicked people when they have so much going for them anyway? It makes some people deny the existence of God! But here the Psalmist says the righteous man **rejoices** at God's mercy to these 'worldly' people! *“The upright see and **glad**”* [42]! It is a **beautiful** thing to see someone rejoice over **another** person's good **fortune**! But that is what the grace of God does – it makes a man **kind**! Even **Scrooge**!!

Second – the Psa ends with a description of **who** the truly wise people are in this world! The wise man is the man who **considers** and **mediates** on the **love** of God to **sinners**! *“Whoever is **wise**...let him attend to these things; let them **consider** the steadfast **love** of the Lord”*[43] God's love to the sinner **ought** to **stimulate** us to **think**. And if we think it is **strange** and **unjust** of God to be kind to the undeserving – you have **discovered** the **gospel**! It **is unreasonable** to human thinking that Jesus should die in the place of sinners!

But the Psalmist says **more** – the truly wise will not only consider and praise God, but they will **heed** these things – will take the lessons to **heart**! They will **do** something about it! *“Whoever is wise, let him **attend** to these things...”*[43] It is **one** thing to know and understand and talk about something – it is a **another** thing to '**attend**' it! What an encouraging Psalm to start the new year with!