

The Thankful Christian Part 2

The Sound of Thanksgiving

A Bible Study Series of The Mt. Zion Church

Pastor Ken Patterson, Ph.D.



Priority # 3: We Will Praise God for His Victory
in Our Lives!

Check In Question: What are you most thankful to God for this year?

Introduction: In our last lesson, we were reminded that Thanksgiving is not confined to a specific time of the year for Christians. We learned about a man whose condition of blindness and inability to speak correctly hindered certain areas of his life. Mark 7: 31-37 showed us that Jesus is willing to engage in one-on-one interactions with us and can heal us in surprising ways. Our response is to give thanks for what He has done but more importantly, for who He is as our Savior. The following lesson extends the same ideas but challenges us to consider what thanksgiving should sound like. In this lesson we will discover that our thanks lift up the name of Jesus, identify the position of The Lord, provide clarity around the miracles occurring in our lives individually, and point to the future work God has planned.

Scripture: Psalms 67

I. The Plea for God’s Divine Favor vs. 1

This poem asks for God’s mercy, blessings, and favor. The structure of the plea is very specific; 1. **Have mercy.** 2. **Deliver to us your blessings.** 3. **Make your face to shine on us (show us favor).**

How has God done these for you this year?

II. The Plan for God's Blessings vs. 2

The writer does not ask for mercy, blessings, and favor as a means to his own ends.

Why does the writer request that God will be merciful to the nation? (See verse Psalms 67: 2).

You will note,

this request is in line with God's original plan of salvation for the world. In Genesis 12: 3b, God states to Abram (later Abraham) an intent for the blessings that are given.

What does God say to Abram about the purpose of blessing his descendants?



SOMETHING TO CONSIDER: Did you know that your blessings are not just for you? They are an opportunity for you to share with others how good God is to those who commit themselves to Him.

The writer expresses that he wants God's mercy and blessings so that God's ways may be known on Earth and His salvation will be known among all nations. How would God's mercy be known across the Earth?



**That's Right! You and Your Big Mouth
Are the Tools to Making God's Salvation
Known Among the Earth.**

III. The Presence of God's Reign vs. 3-4

In Matthew 6: 9-13, Jesus teaches his disciples a prayer we often title as The Lord's prayer. We should more accurately call this prayer The Model Prayer, as it shows us a model or pattern we can follow to pray. (This was common in Jesus' day. Rabbis often gave their disciples examples of how to pray.) In verse 7, the prayer requests that God's kingdom becomes present here on Earth in the same manner that it is present in heaven. This same idea is represented in verses 3 and 4 of Psalms 67. In these passages, the writer suggests that joy results when God reigns over the earth.

But why?

God's Kingdom

Man's Kingdom

Righteous rule Psalms 67: 4	

Understanding the difference between Man's reign and God's reign gives us clues as to why we can celebrate and should beg for God's kingdom to come quickly!

1. How can you help usher in God's Kingdom for "all the people" on a daily basis?
2. Why is it important for you to be part of the "praise team" for God?

IV. When We All Praise God vs. 6-7

Psalms 67 was most likely written during the harvest season as a praise to God for his bounty during that year's farming season. The writer uses language such as earth yielding her increase as a connecting idea to God's blessings and the people's praise. In verse 6, he writes "Then shall the earth yield her increase" which is a connecting thought for what was previously written. Verse 5 ends with a command for everyone to praise God which results in blessings from the Lord.

Throughout the entire poem, the author utilizes words "all people", "all the earth", "the nations", "all nations", to emphasize that God is to be elevated in every land among all people. This thought implies that no one group can lay claim to all of God for themselves. In fact, the intent of the poem expresses the reality that those who are praising God at the time of the harvest, Israel, are to share The Lord with everyone.

In verse 6 the phrase, "our own God" reminds the reader about the God of the people of Israel. He states that his God will bless His people who are in covenant relationship with Him. Those who are not part of the covenant, anyone who is not Jewish, will come to have the same godly respect and understanding of Him. The result is that everyone will praise Him.



1. Remember, blessings come from our God and nowhere else. See James 1: 17
2. Remember, God gives the harvest. Jeremiah 5:24
3. Remember, God promises to bless us. Deuteronomy 7: 12-17.

So, what are you going to do in response?
