

“Thank You”

“Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.

For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.”

Psalm 100:4-5 (NIV)

Perhaps the most emphasized good manner we teach our children is the one where the child says, “Thank you.” All of us can remember being trained to say “Thanks” when we received something—and we do not regret such training. Now, as adults, we say thanks without even thinking of it. It is simply a reflex action on our part.

It is a sad matter when we observe children who lack this good manner and receive good things without an acknowledgement of gratitude for the items received. We do not blame the child as much—as the parents—for such a lack of civility.

Certainly in Christian homes there is the giving of thanks before every meal. One of our grandsons was given a snack by his mother and he spontaneously said, “Mommy we should give thanks to Jesus.” His training was so complete that he wanted to give thanks in everything

(Ephesians 5:20).

One of the most prominent parts of Christian worship is—or should be—the giving of thanks to the Lord when the Christian church assembles for worship. Our verses today tells us to approach the house of God with thankful hearts and fill our speech with thanksgiving.

We are given some reasons in today’s verses for giving thanks to the Lord. God is good and His love endures forever says the Psalmist. So we ought to praise the Lord with thanks for His consistency in loving us. God’s love is not based on what we are. God loves us because He chose to love us.

The hymn writer put it well when he wrote the following lines:

What was there in you
that could merit esteem,
Or give the Creator delight?
‘Twas “Even so, Father,”
you ever must sing,

“Because it seemed good
in Thy sight.”

Horatius Bonar penned these beautiful words of God’s faithfulness:

I change—He changes not;
The Christ can never die;
His love, not mine,
the resting-place;
His truth, not mine, the tie.

My love is oftentimes low,
My joy still ebbs and flows;
But peace with Him
remains the same,
No change Jehovah knows.

Our joy, our encouragement,
our happiness in the
Christian faith has nothing
to do with ourselves and our
work for the Lord. Our security
rests in the Lord alone.
Celebrate with thanksgiving
today because you are the
child of a great God.

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