Appreciate God's Goodness!

PSALM 40:1-10
6-19-2019

***** ***WE NEED TO SHOW GOD OUR DEEP APPRECIATION FOR WHAT HE HAS DONE FOR US.***

How can we show Him such appreciation?

I. BY REMEMBERING GOD'S GOODNESS TO US (v. 1-5)

A. NEVER FORGET THE PIT THAT HE PULLED YOU OUT OF (V. 1-2A)
(Always remember how He changed your status)

B. NEVER FORGET THE ROCK THAT HE PLACED YOU UPON (V. 2B)
(Always remember how He changed your steps)

C. NEVER FORGET THE NEW SONG THAT HE PUT IN YOUR MOUTH (V. 3-5)
(Always remember how He changed your song)

Characteristics of Our New Song - *The new believer's song is:*

1. Derived from God
2. Distinct from the world
3. Directed toward God
4. Displayed in public view
5. Designed to attract others to salvation

II. BY RESPONDING TO GOD'S GOODNESS TO US (V. 6-10)

If you are a grateful (appreciative) believer, it will be evidenced by:

A. A PERSONAL DEVOTION TO THE WILL OF GOD (V. 6-8)

1. Doing God's will from the heart is His desire (v. 6)

2. Doing God's will from the heart should be our delight (v. 6-8)

If you are a grateful (appreciative) believer, it will be evidenced by:

B. A PUBLIC DECLARATION OF THE WORD OF GOD (V. 9-10)

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INTRODUCTION:

ILLUS: 10 lepers cleansed - only one returned to thank and glorify God (Lk. 17:11-19)

PROPOSITION: WE NEED TO SHOW GOD OUR DEEP APPRECIATION FOR WHAT HE HAS DONE FOR US.

How can we show Him such appreciation?

I. BY REMEMBERING GOD'S GOODNESS TO US (v. 1-5)

ILLUS: When we really appreciate what someone does for us, we never forget it.

A. NEVER FORGET THE PIT THAT HE PULLED YOU OUT OF (V. 1-2A)
(Always remember how He changed your status)

EX: Joseph thrown into the pit.
Daniel thrown into the pit of lions

NOTE: "He" brought us up . . .
We were in a pit and could not get out; we were slipping and sinking and had no one who could help - until God reached down!

Whoever you are, you can call upon God in your filthy helplessness. He alone can and will pull you out.

We have gone from:
prison to freedom
captivity to liberty
slavery to being unshackled
the horrifying prospect of hell, to the bright, sunny anticipation of heaven

B. NEVER FORGET THE ROCK THAT HE PLACED YOU UPON (V. 2B)
(Always remember how He changed your steps)

David said that he understood the end of the ungodly: he described them as being set in "slippery places"; who would be cast down to destruction (Ps. 73:18). He said of the wicked: "Let their way be dark and slippery" (Ps. 35:6).

Before we were saved we were slipping fast into hell, but then God reached down and placed us in the hands of His Son!

"Miry clay" = describes a traveler who cannot find a foothold, but slips and sinks.

"Once a man has a good foothold his burden is greatly lightened; but to be loaded with burdens and walking on a slimy, slippery clay, is to really have difficulty."

In Christ (the Rock), we stand on a sure foundation.

Jesus is the Rock that Israel drank from in the wilderness (I Cor. 10:4).

The wise man's house is built upon a Rock (Mt. 7)

"For other foundation can no man lay, than that is laid which is Jesus Christ" (I Cor. 3:11)

Hymn: "On Christ the solid Rock I stand; all other ground is sinking sand"

C. NEVER FORGET THE NEW SONG THAT HE PUT IN YOUR MOUTH (V. 3-5)
(Always remember how He changed your song)

ILLUS: of a trapped bird, finally liberated, can sing!

Characteristics of Our New Song - *The new believer's song is:*

1. Derived from God
"And He hath put. . ."

2. Distinct from the world
"a new song in my mouth. . ."
Our song should be different!
(NOTE: "New"song)
Different than what we sang before salvation
Different than what the world sings
Different than the way the world sings
(different words, melody, rhythm)
The Bible says: "Sing unto the Lord a new song" (Ps. 33:3)

3. Directed toward God
"even praise unto our God. . ."

4. Displayed in public view
"many shall see it. . ."

5. Designed to attract others to salvation
"and fear, and shall trust in the LORD"

Our new song should attract others to God

Our song should be so different from the world in message and style that it makes them fear, not tap their toes!

Others should see and hear what God has done for us and be filled with awe of God's saving power.

EX: of how God's blessings will produce fear in the lost world (SEE Ps. 67:1-7)

ILLUS: of men who were in the depths of sin (and everyone knew it). When saved - have such a transformation that it cannot be hidden. Their live is like a continual convicting sermon. Such a life of praising God makes a lasting impression.

(Cp. Acts 16 - Paul and Silas. Mk. 5:1-20 - The healed demoniac produced fear!)

Verse 5 contrasts with v. 4b - The strong man ("geber" v. 4) should not obtain security by compromising with the arrogant; man is not trustworthy! Rather, God is fully trustworthy (v. 5) - nothing can compare with all that God has done!

"Many . . . wonderful works" - such as creation, providence, redemption, adoption, pardon, justification, sanctification, etc.

"Your thoughts are to us-ward" - "Thoughts" = plans. To think that God cares enough to think, be concerned, and plan our lives, etc., is amazing! "His eye is on the sparrow." Our human minds can't arrange in order all of God's thoughts toward us."

"Can't be numbered" - the hymnwriter wrote:

"The love of God is greater far, than tongue or pen can ever tell. Could we with ink the ocean fill, and were the skies of parchment made; were every stalk on earth a quill, and every man a scribe by trade; to write the love of God above would drain the ocean dry. Nor could the scroll contain the whole though stretched from sky to sky."

Always remember:

When you called, He answered
When you were trapped, He pulled you out
When you were slipping, He gave your feet stability
When you had nothing to rejoice in, He gave you a new song

II. BY RESPONDING TO GOD'S GOODNESS TO US (V. 6-10)

How do you respond when someone does something wonderful for you?

How you respond reveals how much you appreciated what they did.

EX: Girlfriend who wouldn't accept a box of valentine chocolates.

Maybe the 2 responses in v. 6-10 are not in your life because you don't realize God's Goodness. (Unsaved and unsanctified - don't see blessings).

How can we thank God for all of His wondrous works toward us?

If you are a grateful (appreciative) Christian, it will be evidenced by:

A. A PERSONAL DEVOTION TO THE WILL OF GOD (V. 6-8)

1. Doing God's will from the heart is His desire (v. 6)

   God is not saying that He never wanted sacrifices or offerings (however in Christ case, He didn't - Heb. 10:5-7), but He is saying that what He wants more than these externals is the internal heart of devotion. This is what is most important to God.

   To the question, "What doth the Lord require of thee?" Scripture answers: "To walk in all His ways and to love Him" (Dt. 10:12; Micah 6:8).

   I Samuel 15:22 - "Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams."

   "Mine ears hast thou opened" -

   "Opened" = lit. pierced. Indicating obedience to what the Master says.

   2 possible ideas of "pierced" -
   1) hole put in ear lobe as a sign of voluntary perpetual service (Ex. 21:6)
   2) ears opened up to hear what Master says (Is. 50:4-5)

2. Doing God's will from the heart should be our delight (v. 6-8)

"Behold, here am I" - showing a readiness to obey

Cp. Isaiah's dedication to service - Is. 6:8 - "Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me."

For the Christian who appreciates God's goodness, "obedience is not prompted by dread of God's punishments or expectation of a reward. Rather, it is a joy (delight) to do God's will." (Cohen, p. 124)

"Within my heart" = lit. in "my bowels" - the seat of emotion which controls action.

Don't be satisfied to just know God's will (Word) in your intellect!

Ultimate fulfillment is in Christ (Heb. 10:5-7)

If you are a grateful (appreciative) Christian, it will be evidenced by:

B. A PUBLIC DECLARATION OF THE WORD OF GOD (V. 9-10)

"preached" = to announce publically.

David was not satisfied to selfishly benefit from God's goodness; he wanted others to enjoy it, too.

He didn't hoard it for himself alone, rather he longed to give it out.

"Congregation" (v. 9, 10) = the assembly of Israel. David's family, friends, relatives, neighbors, etc.

"Refrain" = to close up, shut up, seal up, or restrain.

EX: Sometimes God impresses upon us to share His word and it bubbles up inside of us, but we zip the lip and don't let it out.

"Hid" = to cover, cover over

To not let God's Word surface, to suppress the impulse to share it before it even reaches your lips.

We are not to hide our light under a bushel, nor are we to keep our salt in the salt shaker.

"concealed" = to hide from sight and hearing.

Job said, "I have not concealed the words of the Holy One" (Job 6:10; cp. 27:11)

In a day when:

Unrighteousness prevails, we must tell of God's righteousness
Unfaithfulness " " faithfulness
Lostness " " salvation
Cruelty " " lovingkindness
Error " " truth

Nothing should keep us from proclaiming the gospel! Not laziness, not fear of men, not ignorance. We must be "instant, in season and out of season."

CONCLUSION: