

NEWSLETTER 2022-6

To: My Fellow Saints

Date: November 18, 2022

Re: **Thanksgiving November 2022**

Beloved Saints and Fellow Laborers-in-the-Lord; greetings to you in the name of Jesus Christ our lord and Savior our soon coming King.

Psalm 136:1 Amplified Bible

“Oh Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy and loving kindness endure forever.”

Song by Chris Tomlin: “Forever” . . . Partial quote:

Give thanks to the Lord, our God and King
His love endures forever
For He is good, He is above all things
His love endures forever

Sing praise, sing praise

With a mighty hand and outstretched arm
His love endures forever
For the life that’s been reborn
His love endures forever

.

From the rising to the setting sun
His love endures forever
And by the grace of God, we will carry on
His love endures forever

Sing Praise, sing praise
Sing praise, sing praise, yeah

Forever, God is faithful
Forever, God is faithful
Forever, God is with us

Beloved, as you know, while a specific day has been set apart for Christmas, Easter and Thanksgiving, etc., in essence the reality of these events are what we can and ought to experience every day!

I will not at this time, present a detailed study on the psalm selected for this presentation (Psalm 136) but note the following Main Points that I have identified. **The psalm is saying to us about God:**

1. He is the **Triune God** (*The LORD/Yahweh/Jehovah*) (136:1-4).
2. He is the **Transcendent Creator** (136:5-9).
3. He is the **Tremendous/Sole Redeemer** (136:10-15).
4. He is the **Trustworthy/All-Powerful Commander** (136:16-22).
5. He is the **Timely/Compassionate Emancipator** (136:23-24).
6. He **Takes Care of His Own** (136:25).
7. He is the **True and Living God** (136:25; Jer. 10:10-18).

You may want to study these as an individual project and such will enhance your deeper understanding of the psalm.

Israel was enslaved by the Egyptians for four hundred years; it was a period that was horrifying, cruel and bitter, etc., a time when they saw no way out and no end to their relentless, heartless task-masters and a period of gloom and utter darkness. Eventually, God called and commissioned Moses to be the one to lead the people out of bondage and what a glorious time it was (Exodus chapters 3-13, **NB chapter 13**); yet it didn't take long before they started mumbling, complaining, etc. (Exodus 14; 16; etc.). **Oh, that we may ALL find time to daily give thanks to God for He is worthy!! (Phil. 4:6; 1 Thess. 5:16-18; etc.).**

Note the Following Poem
“The A B C of Thanksgiving”

Poet is unknown.

Although things are not perfect
 Because of trial or pain
Continue in thanksgiving
 Do not begin to blame

Even when times are hard
 Fierce winds are bound to blow
 God is forever able
 Hold on to what you know

Imagine life without His love
 Joy would cease to be
Keep thanking Him for all the things
 Love imparts to thee

Move out of “Camp Complaining”
 No weapon that is known
 On earth can yield the power

Praise can do alone

Quit looking at a dark future

Redeem the time at hand

Start everyday with worship

To “give thanks” is a command

Until we see Him coming

Victorious in the sky

Well run the race with gratitude

Xalting God, most high

Yes, there will be good times and yes some will be bad, but

Zion waits in glory . . . where none are ever sad!

Allow me to share, briefly, one pointer relating to Psalm 136:

Repeated throughout Psalm 136 is the phrase “. . . *for His mercy endures forever.*” (NKJV); the Life Application Study Bible translates it: “*His faith love endures forever.*” The repetition made the important lesson of God’s goodness sinks in and deep down!

God’s goodness includes aspects of love, kindness, mercy and faithfulness. God’s mercy and love are the foundation of all His work on our behalf and the fountainhead of all our thanksgiving! We never have to worry that God will run out of love because it flows from a well that will never run dry!! (Isa. 58:11; Lam. 3:19-26, NB Vv. 22-23).

Beloved, as we continue on our “Pilgrim’s Journey” we will encounter challenging situations and moments of anguish but like Paul, the author of Romans, has expressed in Rom. 8:31-39 . . . that “**God is for Us!**”, and in verse 35 he notes, “**Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?**” Beloved no matter our challenges let us “**abide in Christ**” (John 15:1-11) . . . in Him we are “. . . **more than conquerors**”!! Rom. 8:37)

Let us stay focused3

and give God the praise due to Him!!

In closing, note this partial quote from “**Glory to Your Name**” by Byron Cage:

Glory to Your name

Glory to Your name

Glory to Your name

Forever You are the same

We worship and adore You

We bow ourselves before You

Giving You the glory

That is due Your name

We magnify Your name
Glorify Your name
Oh God

Beloved, while our families meet together for Thanksgiving, I pray that we will all remember that we most effectively praise God by the life that we daily live! **In appreciation for all that God has done, is doing and will continue to do, let us live by “imitating” Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior!!** (See Eph. 5:1 . . . the KJV version has “**followers**” which by the original usage means “**imitators**” see for example the NKJV).

Psalm 136:23-26 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

*“It is he who remembered us in our low estate, for his steadfast love endures forever; and rescued us from our foes, for his steadfast love endures forever; who gives food to all flesh, for his steadfast love endures forever. **O give thanks to the God of heaven, for his steadfast love endures forever.**”*

I dearly love and appreciate you all!! It is my sincere prayers that you and your family will have a blessed and wonderful Thanksgiving!!

God Bless!!

Yours-in-Christ
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