

## *Enter His Gates with Thanksgiving*

### **Introduction: (Text: Psalm 100)**

- A. **A man walked into the New York City rent office and asked if they could tell him who his landlord was.** “The man you pay rent to,” said the clerk. “Don’t pay no rent,” said the man. “Found this vacant building a few months back and moved in. Been there ever since.” “Well, what are you worrying about?” asked the clerk. “You have no complaint.” “Sure I do,” returned the man. “The roof leaks and if somebody don’t come and fix it, I’m gonna move out!” (Ken Dye)
- B. **Often times, this is our response to the blessings that God sends our way. We take God’s blessings for granted and complain when we have a problem.** On Thursday, of this week, we are celebrating a national holiday known as Thanksgiving. **When we think of this holiday, perhaps we are reminded of a group of pilgrims, from the 17th century, who made their way to this country, fleeing religious persecution.** They had been here for only one short year, although it must have seemed the longest year in their life.
- **During this time, almost one half of their group died because of the very bad winter they had had.** During the spring—they had planted their crops and with the help of their Indian neighbors, they were able to have a good crop and plenty of food.
  - **Because they had been so blessed to have made it through the winter and had a good crop, they decided to set aside some time to thank God for their blessings.** As they had many reasons to thank God, so we in 21st century America have blessings for which to give thanks.

### **#1: We Can Thank God for the Whole World/Universe:**

- A. **It is my belief that God created the world in which we live. Think of all the beauties of the earth that you have seen or perhaps failed to see.**
- **The beautiful colors of the leaves at this time of the year.**
  - **The snow-covered mountains—Sisters & Mt. Bachelor**
  - **The beauties of the coastline, the lakes & rivers, waterfalls**
  - **The beauties of the animals—bears, (Yellowstone N. P.), deer, elk, etc.**
- B. **The stars have always fascinated me and when we consider the number of the stars and how far away they are and how big they are, we are amazed at God and thankful that he made the world for us to enjoy!**
- C. **Surely, we can thank God for the beauties of the universe and its tremendous size.**

### **#2: We Can Thank God for Each New Day, That We Have:**

- A. **I'm sure that the pilgrims who were still alive after that severe winter, were very much thankful for being able to face a new day alive.** Many times, we wake up in the morning, and we groan and complain because we have to get up. We should be thankful to God that He has seen fit to let us live another day.
- B. **God intends for us to enjoy each day, not worry about the future. We can trust God to take care of us.** We need to learn to live each day to its fullest. We must remember: **“Yesterday is a cancelled check, tomorrow is a promissory note, and today is the only cash you have, so spend it wisely.”**
- C. **Hospice patients: “We do not know what the future holds, but we know who holds the future.”** Those who learned to live one day at a time, making the most of each day, were best able to face their own mortality.
- D. **The secret of the successful and worry free life is to live one day at a time.** What better way is there to start off the new day than to thank God that He has given us the blessing of being allowed to live one more day?

**#3: *We Can Be Thankful That We Are Allowed to Live in This Country***

- A. **Even in these uncertain times, I would choose to live in this country rather than anywhere else in the world.** Our country is not perfect, but we have the freedom to improve it. **We have the opportunity to vote for our leaders. In this country, most importantly, we still have the freedom to worship God as we choose.**
- B. I believe we have been blessed beyond words to live in this country. I have come to a greater appreciation of this country after a trip to Washington D. C. **(The mall, Capitol Bldg., Washington monument, Lincoln Monument, Korean War Memorial, Vietnam War Memorial, The White House, the Pentagon, Arlington National Cemetery)**
- C. **I am grateful to live in this country and I pray God's blessings on these United States.**

**#4: *Additional Blessings (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)***

- A. There are many other blessings that each of us can think of that are ours, but we could not even begin to name them all. **Let me mention a few of them.**
- B. **Family, Parents, Wife & Children**
- C. **Friends**
- D. **Spiritual gifts from God: Christians:**
  - **Father,**
  - **Forgiveness,**
  - **Fellowship, and**
  - **Future.**
  - **Luke 17:11-19**

## *Conclusion*

### *These Are Yours*

The story is told about an old Navajo Indian who was easily discouraged. Despite possessing fabulous wealth from oil production on his property, he was especially despondent in hot, dry weather.

Ever so often, the old gentleman would show up at the bank and say, “Grass all gone, sheep all sick, water holes dry.” The banker always knew exactly what to do. Without a word, he would lead the old man inside the vault, seat him beside several bags of silver, and say, “These are yours.”

After spending some time looking at his riches, the Indian would come out and say, “Grass all green, sheep all well, water holes all full.” He simply needed to review his resources.

That’s good advice (for us Christians) when facing moments of adversity and discouragement. At such times, it is helpful to mentally walk into the infinite vault of God’s storehouse, review the “unsearchable riches of God’s redeeming grace,” and remember, “These are yours.”

If you will linger long enough, you will discover treasures in God (Christ Jesus) which are inexhaustible. The more you search, the more unsearchable your riches are found to be. Even eternity will not suffice to exhaust “the exceeding riches of His grace (to us in Christ Jesus.)”

“Oh the depth and the riches of God’s saving grace ...”and they are yours.”

—David Wallace