

Sermon Title: **"REDEEMED: LIVING A LIFE OF THANKSGIVING..."**

Sermon Text: **Psalm 107**

Introduction:

GOOD MORNING TO ALL! WELCOME TO FBC'S SUNDAY CELEBRATION OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS & GOODNESS! WE WELCOME THOSE JOINING US ONLINE ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO ARE JOINING US FOR THE FIRST TIME! WE ARE NOW ALMOST OVER WITH OUR CURRENT SERMON SERIES CALLED "PONDERING THE PSALMS-FINDING MEANING & PURPOSE IN THE PANDEMIC!" HOPE THAT YOU HAVE BEEN BLESSED BY THIS SERIES & WE ARE GOING TO WRAP UP THIS SERIES NEXT SUNDAY & BEGIN WITH A NEW SERMON SERIES UNDER THE THEME "THE INVESTED LIFE: HOW TO FULFILL OUR 'GREAT COMMISSION' CALLING & PURPOSE!"

TODAY, WE ARE GOING TO STUDY ANOTHER PSALM THAT TEACHES US THE GOODNESS & FAITHFULNESS OF OUR GOD AS WELL AS HIS SOVEREIGNTY IN THE LIVES OF HIS PEOPLE. WE WILL DISCOVER THRU THIS PSALM THAT THE GOD WE WORSHIP & SERVE IS A GOD WHO TURNS THINGS AROUND! HE IS NOT ONLY A LOVING & PERSONAL GOD BUT AN ALL POWERFUL & SOVEREIGN GOD! LET US PRAY!!!

PSALM 107 IS A CALL TO GIVE THANKS & PRAISE THE LORD FOR WHO HE IS & WHAT HE DOES TO HIS PEOPLE. WE CAN OUTLINE THE PSALM IN THREE PARTS/SECTIONS. (1) THE CALL TO GIVE THANKS & PRAISE TO THE LORD! (2). THE CAUSE/REASONS TO GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD! AND (3). THE CHALLENGE TO GIVE THANKS & PRAISE TO THE LORD! SO, LET US BEGIN BY LOOKING THE CALL TO GIVE THANKS & PRAISE TO THE LORD...

A. THE CALL TO GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD!

THE FIRST THING THAT WE SEE IN THIS PSALM IS THE CALL TO GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD.

1) The Psalmist exhorts the redeemed of the Lord to give thanks!

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his faithful love endures

forever. ***Let the redeemed of the Lord proclaim*** that he has redeemed them from the power of the foe and has gathered them from the lands—from the east and the west, from the north and the south.”
(vv. 1-3)

“Let them give thanks to the Lord for his faithful love and his wondrous works for all humanity.” (vv. 8, 15, 21, 31)

NOW, TAKE NOTE ALSO THAT PSALMIST ALSO IDENTIFIED THOSE WHO ARE TO GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD IN VERSES 2-3 – THEY ARE THE **REDEEMED** OF THE LORD!

NOTE THAT THE CALL TO “GIVE THANKS” IN VERSE 1 IS REPEATED AGAIN FOUR MORE TIMES IN VERSES 8, 15, 21, & 31 BUT ON THOSE TIMES THE PSALMIST IDENTIFIED THEM AS THOSE WHO DIRECTLY BENEFITED & RECEIVED BLESSINGS FROM THE LORD.

IN ANY CASE, THE POINT OF THE PSALMIST IS CLEAR – AS GOD’S REDEEMED PEOPLE WHO BENEFITED FROM HIM, THEY ARE TO CONTINUALLY GIVE THANKS TO OUR LORD.

NOW, WHO ARE THESE REDEEMED OF THE LORD? THE PSALMIST TELLS US THAT THEY ARE THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN “DELIVERED” & “GATHERED BACK” OR “RESTORED” BY THE LORD FROM THE FOUR CORNERS OF THE EARTH TO THEIR LAND. THESE PEOPLE WERE THOSE WHOM THE LORD HAS CALLED TO HIMSELF TO BE HIS COVENANT PEOPLE, ISRAEL. THE LORD PROMISED TO BE THEIR GOD & THEY TRUSTED HIS WORD OR PROMISED. THE LORD PROMISED TO BLESS THEM AND THEY PROMISED TO FULLY LOVE & OBEY HIM & HIS PRECEPTS. BUT BY HINDSIGHT, WE KNOW THAT THEY WERE NOT ALWAYS FAITHFUL TO THEIR GOD & THE LORD WOULD GIVE THEM OVER TO THEIR ENEMIES AND THE PSALMIST IS POINTING US TO THIS ONE HISTORICAL EVENT WHEN THE LORD HAS TO DELIVERED & SAVED THEM.

SO, WHEN WAS THIS TIME WHEN ISRAEL WAS BEING GATHERED BY THE LORD FROM ALL CORNERS OF THE EARTH? YES! AFTER BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY. WE ARE SURE OF THIS ALSO BECAUSE AS WE STUDY THE OTHER PSALMS BUNCH OR GROUP

(107-150, THE HYMNAL OF ISRAEL) WITH PSALM 107 (PS105, 106), WE LEARNED THAT THEY ARE INTERCONNECTED. PSALM 105 DEALS W/ ISRAEL'S EXODUS, PS. 106 DEALS w/ THEIR TRAUMATIC LIFE OF THE BABYLONIAN EXILE, AND PS. 107 DEALS W/ THEIR RESTORATION TO THE LAND (Bible.org).

"I have hidden my face from this city because of all their evil. Yet I will certainly bring health and healing to it and will indeed heal them. I will let them experience the abundance of true peace. I will restore the fortunes of Judah and of Israel and will rebuild them as in former times. I will purify them from all the iniquity they have committed against me, and I will forgive all the iniquities they have committed against me, rebelling against me." (Jer. 33: 5-8)

B. THE **REASONS** FOR GIVING THANKS TO THE LORD!

THE NEXT THING I WANT US TO SEE IN THE PSALM IS THE **REASON** THE REDEEMED OF THE LORD OR BELIEVERS ARE TO GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD! WE COULD SEE **TWO IMPORTANT REASONS** – BECAUSE OF **HIS CHARACTER & HIS WONDROUS WORKS** IN OUR LIFE!

1) BECAUSE OF **WHO HE IS** OR HIS **CHARACTER**!

*"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is **good**; his **faithful love** endures forever." (vv. 1)*

*"Let them give thanks to the Lord for his **faithful love** and his wondrous works for all humanity." (vv. 8, 15, 21, 31)*

VERSES 1-3 TELLS US RIGHT AWAY WHY AS HIS REDEEMED PEOPLE, WE ARE TO GIVE THANKS TO HIM – BECAUSE OF WHO HE IS OR HIS CHARACTER - **HIS GOODNESS & FAITHFUL LOVE!**

2) BECAUSE OF **WHAT HE DOES** OR HIS **WONDROUS WORKS**!

*"Let them give thanks to the Lord for his faithful love and **his wondrous works** for all humanity." (vv. 8, 15, 21, 31)*

IN FACT, THE PSALMIST IDENTIFIED TO US THESE PEOPLE WHOM HE DELIVERED & HOW HE HAD SHOWN HIS GOODNESS & FAITHFUL LOVE & TO WHOM HE PERFORMED WONDROUS WORKS!

a. THE LORD RESCUED, LED, & FED THE WANDERERS!

“Some wandered in the desolate wilderness, finding no way to a city where they could live. They were hungry and thirsty; their spirits failed within them. Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble; he rescued them from their distress. He led them by the right path to go to a city where they could live.” (vv. 4-7)

b. THE LORD BROKE & SET FREE THE PRISONERS!

“Others sat in darkness and gloom—prisoners in cruel chains—because they rebelled against God’s commands and despised the counsel of the Most High. He broke their spirits with hard labor; they stumbled, and there was no one to help. Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble; he saved them from their distress. He brought them out of darkness and gloom and broke their chains apart.” (vv. 10-14)

c. THE LORD SENT HIS WORD & HEALED THE SICK!!

“Fools suffered affliction because of their rebellious ways and their iniquities. They loathed all food and came near the gates of death. Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble; he saved them from their distress. He sent his word and healed them; he rescued them from their traps.” (vv. 17-20)

d. THE LORD STILLED THE STORM & GUIDED TO SAFETY THE SAILORS!

“Others went to sea in ships, conducting trade on the vast water. They saw the Lord’s works, his wondrous works in the deep. He spoke and raised a stormy wind that stirred up the waves of the sea. Rising up to the sky, sinking down to the depths, their courage melting away in anguish, they reeled and staggered like a drunkard, and all their skill was useless. Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and he

brought them out of their distress. He stilled the storm to a whisper, and the waves of the sea were hushed. They rejoiced when the waves grew quiet. Then he guided them to the harbor they longed for."

(vv. 23-30)

e. THE LORD **CAN DO** THE IMPOSSIBLE! HE IS ABLE TO **URNS THINGS AROUND!**

IN FACT, THE PSALMIST ENDED THESE GRACIOUS & WONDROUS WORKS OF GOD BY HIGHLIGHTING THE GOD OF THE BIBLE AS THE GOD WHO CAN DO THE IMPOSSIBLE IN OUR LIFE! HE CAN TURN OUR IMPOSSIBLE SITUATIONS INTO POSIBLE! HE CAN DO A MIRACLE IN OUR LIFE! HE IS A GOD WHO CAN TURN THINGS AROUND IN OUR LIFE!

*"He **urns** rivers into desert, springs into thirsty ground, and fruitful land into salty wasteland, because of the wickedness of its inhabitants. He **urns** a desert into a pool, dry land into springs. He **causes** the hungry to settle there, and they establish a city where they **can live**. They sow fields and plant vineyards that yield a fruitful harvest. He **blesse**s them, and they multiply greatly; he does not let their livestock decrease. When they are diminished and are humbled by cruel oppression and sorrow, he **pours** contempt on nobles and makes them wander in a trackless wasteland. **But he **lifts** the needy out of their suffering and **makes** their families multiply like flocks.** The upright see it and rejoice, and all injustice shuts its mouth."*

NOW, ONE REASON I'M TEMPTED TO POINT THAT THIS PSALM WAS WRITTEN BY DAVID IS THAT SOMEWHERE ALSO IN THIS BOOK, DAVID WROTE THIS –

*"You **turned** my lament into dancing; you **removed** my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness, so that I can sing to you and not be silent. **Lord my God, I will **praise** you forever.**" (Psalm 30: 11-12)*

C. THE **BLESSING** OF GIVING THANKS TO THE LORD!

FINALLY, WE SEE THE PSALMIST CHALLENGING ALL THE REDEEMED OF THE LORD TO LISTEN & TO TAKE HEED OR OBEY

HIS CALL TO GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD! AND THIS IS SIMPLY BECAUSE...

1) *To give thanks & praise to the Lord is to be WISE!*

“Let whoever is wise pay attention to these things and consider the Lord’s acts of faithful love.” (v. 43)

INDEED, THE ONE WHO TRUST THE LORD & HIS WORD & FULLY OBEYS HIM IS WISE BECAUSE HE IS THE ONE WHO EXPERIENCES THE LORD’S FAVOR & BLESSINGS! HE WILL BE SAVED FROM THE SNARES & TRAPS OF SATAN IN THIS LIFE.

EXPLAINING THE IMPORTANCE OF LISTENING & OBEYING GOD’S WORD, THE LORD JESUS LIKENED THE PERSON WHO LISTENS & OBEYS HIS WORDS TO A MAN WHO BUILT HIS HOUSE UPON THE ROCK SO THAT WHEN LIFE’S STORM CAME, HIS HOUSE WITHSTOOD IT BUT THE HOUSE OF THOSE WHO BUILD THEIR HOUSE UPON THE SAND WERE ALL DESTROYED.

“Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain fell, the rivers rose, and the winds blew and pounded that house. Yet it didn’t collapse, because its foundation was on the rock. 26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and doesn’t act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. 27 The rain fell, the rivers rose, the winds blew and pounded that house, and it collapsed. It collapsed with a great crash.” (Matt. 7: 24-27)

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS:

(1) ARE YOU ONE OF THE REDEEMED OF THE LORD TODAY? ARE YOU WISE? ARE YOU LIVING A LIFE OF CONTINUAL THANKS & PRAISE TO THE LORD TODAY EVEN IN THE MIDST OF THE PANDEMIC?

NOW, AGAIN WHO ARE THE REDEEMED OF THE LORD AT THIS TIME? AS WE NOTED EARLIER, THE REDEEMED HERE WERE THE ISRAELITES WHO CAME FROM ABRAHAM & ISAAC & JACOB AND

WHOM THE LORD DELIVERED FROM EGYPT THRU MOSES & TO WHOM THE LORD MADE A COVENANT. IN THE BOOK OF GENESIS 15:5 & HEBREWS 11, WE LEARNED THAT THESE PEOPLE BECAME THE REDEEMED BECAUSE THEY BELIEVED THE LORD & PLACED THEIR TRUSTED IN HIM & HIS PROMISE.

“Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.” (Gen. 15: 5)

IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT THE WORD “REDEEMED” MEANS LITERALLY “A RICH RELATIVE BUYING SOMEONE BACK FROM SLAVERY” (www.Bible.org). IN FACT, WE SAW THIS PICTURED IN THE BOOK OF RUTH WHERE THE RICH BOAZ, BEING THE KINSMAN REDEEEMER OF RUTH, TOOK RUTH AS HIS WIFE FROM ANOTHER RELATIVE WHO HAS THE FIRST RIGHT OWN HER. THESE PEOPLE BELIEVED THAT THE FATHER WILL SEND THE MESSIAH WHO WILL “REDEEMED” THEM FROM THEIR SINS!

IN THIS COVENANT, THE LORD PROMISED TO BE THEIR GOD & TO BE FAITHFUL TO THEM & IN THE RETURN THE ISRAELITES ARE TO LOVE THE LORD & FULLY OBEY HIM! BUT WE KNOW THAT THEY WERE NOT ALWAYS FAITHFUL TO THE LORD. IN FACT, OFTEN TIMES THEY WOULD ABANDON THE LORD & FOLLOW FOREIGN GODS & IDOLS. IN OTHER WORDS, THEY WOULD LIVE IN SIN & REBELLION & EXPERIENCE THE LORD’S DISCIPLINES BUT THE LORD REMAINS FAITHFUL TO THEM. FOR WHEN THEY CRIED OUT TO GOD FOR HELP & THE LORD DELIVERED THEM! THEY WERE RECIPIENTS OF THE LORD’S MIRACULOUS & GRACIOUS INTERVENTION! AND HERE WE SEE THEM BEING CALLED & EXPECTED TO GIVE THANKS & PRAISE TO THE LORD THEIR GOD!

BUT WHO ARE THE REDEEMED OF THE LORD TODAY? THE APOSTLE PETER GIVES US A DEFINITE & UNQUESTIONABLE ANSWER –

“For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.” (1 Peter 1: 18-19)

CHURCH/FRIENDS! THE REDEEMED OF THE LORD TODAY ARE THOSE PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN “REDEEMED” (SAME MEANING IN PSALM 107:3) BY THE BLOOD OF JESUS! THEY HAVE BEEN BOUGHT BY THE BLOOD OF JESUS & SET FREE FROM SATAN & NOW ARE HIS SLAVES OR SERVANTS. THESE PEOPLE HAVE PLACED THEIR TRUST IN HIM AS THEIR SAVIOR!

“If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. One believes with the heart, resulting in righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, resulting in salvation. For the Scripture says, Everyone who believes on him will not be put to shame, since there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, because the same Lord of all richly blesses all who call on him. For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” (Rom. 10: 9-13)

AND SO, IF YOU ARE NOT YET PLACED YOUR FAITH IN JESUS, THEN GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD BECAUSE THIS IS THE DAY THAT THE LORD HAS MADE FOR YOU TO BE SAVED. BELIEVE & PLACE YOUR TRUST IN JESUS AS THE ONE SENT BY THE FATHER TO REDEEM YOU, TO RANSOM, TO DIE FOR YOUR SINS & SUFFER HELL AS YOUR SUBSTITUTE IN ORDER FOR YOU TO BE DECLARED HOLY & RIGHTEOUS BEFORE THE LORD. THIS IS YOUR DAY OF SALVATION AND SO, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEART BUT SURRENDER IT TO JESUS & SUBMIT TO HIM AS YOUR SAVIOR & LORD! AMEN!

CHURCH/FRIENDS! THIS IS THE MAJOR REASON WHY WE ARE TO LIVE A LIFE OF THANKSGIVING & PRAISE TO THE LORD – HE HAS GIVEN US A SAVIOR! HE HAS REDEEMED US THRU OUR FAITH IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AS OUR SAVIOR & LORD! INDEED, WE THANK THE LORD FOR HIS AMAZING & INDESCRIBABLE GIFT IN THE PERSON OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST!

(2) HAVE YOU ALREADY EXPERIENCED THE FAITHFUL LOVE & THE RELIABLE PROMISE OF THE LORD? ARE YOU LIVING A LIFE OF CONTINUAL THANKS & PRAISE TO THE LORD TODAY?

“Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble; he rescued them from their distress.” (vv. 6, 13, 19, 28)

NOW, TAKE NOTE THAT THESE REDEEMED OF THE LORD EXPERIENCED THE DELIVERANCE OF THE LORD BECAUSE THEY BELIEVED & TRUSTED HIS WORD OR PROMISE TO THEM. AND WHAT WAS THAT PROMISE? THAT HE WILL BE FAITHFUL TO THEM. THAT HE WILL HEAR & ANSWER THEIR PRAYER WHEN THEY CALL ON HIM IN HUMILITY & CONTRITENESS OF HEART. REMEMBER THE WORDS OF THE LORD TO SOLOMON AFTER HE DEDICATED THE TEMPLE.

Then the Lord appeared to Solomon at night and said to him: I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a temple of sacrifice. If I shut the sky so there is no rain, or if I command the grasshopper to consume the land, or if I send pestilence on my people, and my people, who bear my name, humble themselves, pray and seek my face, and turn from their evil ways, then I will hear from heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land. My eyes will now be open and my ears attentive to prayer from this place.” (2 Chro. 7:12-15)

TAKE NOTE THAT ONE OF THE MAJOR THEMES OF THIS PSALM IS THE FAITHFUL LOVE OF THE LORD OR “HESED” IN HEBREW! IN FACT, THIS IS THE BEGINNING & THE END STATEMENT OF THE PSALM. THE WRITER INTENDED THIS TO EMPHASIZE THIS VERY IMPORTANT ASPECT OF GOD’S CHARACTER!

“Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his faithful love endures forever... Let whoever is wise pay attention to these things and consider the Lord’s acts of faithful love.” (vv. 1 & 43)

HESED, (250X IN OT) EXPRESSES AN ESSENTIAL PART OF GOD’S CHARACTER. WHEN GOD APPEARED TO MOSES TO GIVE THE LAW A SECOND TIME, HE DESCRIBED HIMSELF AS “ABOUNDING IN” OR “FILLED WITH” HESED, WHICH IS TRANSLATED “LOVE AND FAITHFULNESS,” “UNFAILING LOVE,” “FAITHFUL LOVE,” “STEADFAST LOVE,” AND “LOYAL LOVE,” DEPENDING ON THE BIBLE VERSION (EXODUS 34:6–7). THE CORE IDEA OF THIS TERM COMMUNICATES LOYALTY OR FAITHFULNESS

WITHIN A RELATIONSHIP. THUS, HESED IS CLOSELY RELATED TO GOD'S COVENANT WITH HIS PEOPLE, ISRAEL. AS IT RELATES TO THE CONCEPT OF LOVE, HESED EXPRESSES GOD'S FAITHFULNESS TO HIS PEOPLE (BIBLE.ORG).

CHURCH/FRIENDS! OUR GOD IS WORTHY OF OUR THANKS & PRAISE BECAUSE HIS LOVE IS LOYAL & FAITHFUL! HE WILL FULFILL OR DELIVER HIS PROMISE! HE WILL DO HIS PART OF THE COVENANT!

*"I have hidden my face from this city because of all their evil. Yet I will certainly bring health and healing to it and will indeed heal them. I will let them experience the abundance of true peace. **I will restore the fortunes of Judah and of Israel and will rebuild them as in former times.** I will purify them from all the iniquity they have committed against me, and I will forgive all the iniquities they have committed against me, rebelling against me."* (Jer. 33: 5-8)

CHURCH/FRIENDS! OUR GOD IS WORTHY OF OUR THANKS & PRAISE BECAUSE HIS LOVE IS LOYAL & FAITHFUL! HE IS WILL DELIVER HIS PROMISE! HE WILL DO HIS PART OF THE COVENANT!

NOW, REMEMBER THE COUNTLESS TIMES HE DELIVERED YOU FROM TROUBLE OR GAVE YOU WISDOM TO GET OUT OF TROUBLE OR CRISIS? THE COUNTLESS TIMES HE SET YOU FREE FROM SATAN'S TRAP OR SNARE? THE COUNTLESS TIMES HE HEALED YOUR DISEASES OR SICKNESS? THE COUNTLESS TIMES HE STILL THE STORM IN YOUR LIFE?

(3) **FINALLY, ARE YOU SOMEONE WHO NEED TO BE REDEEMED BY THE LORD TODAY? OR PERHPAAS YOU NEED THE LORD'S GRACIOUS & MIRACULOUS INTERVENTION OR "TURNAROUND" TODAY? PERHAPS, YOU ARE FACING A "DESERT"/"DRY LAND" OR A "PRISON" OR "SICKNESS/AFFLICTION" (WHETHER OF BODY OR SPIRIT) OR A "STORM/CALAMITIY" OR WHATEVER "VERY DIFFICULT SITUATION" IN LIFE TODAY? THEN, YOU ARE A CANDIDATE TO THE LORD'S GRACIOUS & MIRACULOUS INTERVENTION? WHY NOT COME TO HIM & EXPERIENCE HIS POWER & PRESENCE IN YOUR LIFE TODAY? AND LIKE THESE**

***REDEEMED PEOPLE OF THE LORD, WHAT WE NEED TO DO IS TO
CRY OUT TO THE LORD WITH A HUMBLE & CONTRITE HEART, FOR
THE LORD PROMISE TO HEAR & DELIVER! WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO
THAT TODAY? LET US PRAY!!!***