

A WORD ON WORSHIP

REVIEW OF MESSAGE FROM NOV. 23, 2014

BY PASTOR ANDREW KIKKERT, SUNRISE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Hear Sunday Sermons at www.SunriseTC.org

Psalms 136:1-3

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His lovingkindness is everlasting.

Give thanks to the God of gods, for His lovingkindness is everlasting.

Give thanks to the Lord of lords, for His lovingkindness is everlasting."

We're not supposed to give thanks to the Lord only one day each year, when we stuff ourselves with turkey and all the trimmings. Giving thanks to our gracious God should not be seasonal, but perpetual: "Always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father" (Eph. 5:20). And so this psalm is appropriate for any and every day of the year but most importantly at this time of Thanksgiving. The psalmist tells us to always give thanks to the Lord, for His lovingkindness is everlasting.

Psalm 136 is a unique psalm in that the same refrain is repeated 26 times. The only thing close is when Psalm 118:1-4 repeats, "His lovingkindness is everlasting" four times. Probably, Psalm 136 was designed for public worship. The Jews called it the Great Hallel (Praise), and it was especially sung at the Passover. Perhaps the worship leader would recite the first line of each verse, followed by the congregation repeating together the response, "for His lovingkindness is everlasting." John Calvin said that the repeated refrain teaches us that to praise the Lord properly, we must acknowledge that everything we receive from Him is bestowed by His grace.

The lesson for us is that it is important for us to know Scripture (including the Old Testament!) so well that we respond to trials and other situations in our lives with biblical language and thought patterns. The stories in the Old Testament that Psalm 136 speak about were written for our instruction so that we would not crave evil things as they did, nor be idolaters, nor try the Lord, nor grumble. If you are not familiar with these stories, so that they shape your worldview, you will not apply them when you most need to. Rather than thanking the Lord for His everlasting love, you will fall into grumbling with the rest of the world.

Why does the psalmist hammer home 26 times the theme that God's lovingkindness is everlasting? It's because the enemy wants us to doubt it, especially when trials hit. This truth was so important that David appointed singers whose job was to repeat at the tabernacle, "give thanks to the Lord, because His lovingkindness is everlasting" (1 Chron. 16:41). Later, when the ark was brought into the newly completed temple, Solomon appointed singers to sing, "He indeed is good, for His lovingkindness is everlasting" (2 Chron. 5:13). God's response was to fill the temple with the cloud of His glory. These things are for our instruction. In every situation, "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His lovingkindness is everlasting".



Sunrise Community Church
Come acknowledge the Lord in our midst
EVERY SUNDAY BEGINNING AT 8:45 A.M.

The Hymns We Sing

COURTESY OF THE CYBER HYMNAL™

<http://www.hymntime.com/>

Come,

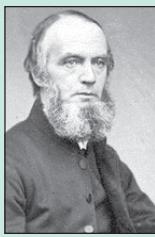
Ye Thankful People, Come

"Let us come before Him with thanksgiving, and extol Him with music and song."

Psalm 95:2

<http://www.hymntime.com/tch/htm/c/o/m/e/comeytpc.htm>

http://www.hymntime.com/tch/mid/s/t/g/st_georges_windsor.mid



Henry Alford
(1810-1871)
© National
Portrait Gallery



George J. Elvey
(1816-1893)

Words: Henry Alford,
Psalms and Hymns,
1844.

Music: George J. Elvey,
St. George's Windsor,
1858

**Come, ye thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home;
All is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin.
God our Maker doth provide for our wants to be supplied;
Come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.**

**All the world is God's own field, fruit unto His praise to yield;
Wheat and tares together sown. unto joy or sorrow grown.
First the blade and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear;
Lord of harvest, grant that we, wholesome grain and pure may be**

**For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take His harvest home;
From His field shall in that day all offenses purge away,
Giving angels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast;
But the fruitful ears to store in His garner evermore.**

**Even so, Lord, quickly come, bring Thy final harvest home;
Gather Thou Thy people in, free from sorrow, free from sin,
There, forever purified, in Thy garner to abide;
Come, with all Thine angels come, raise the glorious harvest home.**

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT SUNRISE November 2014

NOVEMBER 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	1	2	3	4	5	6

Nov. 16 8:45 AM 1st John 4:12-16
The Assurance of Abiding
10:30 AM Sunday School

Nov. 18 7:00 PM Bible Study at Kikkert's

Nov. 21 7:00 PM Game Night

Nov. 23 8:45 AM Thanksgiving Celebration
10:30 AM All Church Pot Luck

Nov. 25 7:00 PM Bible Study at Kikkert's
Thanksgiving Day

Nov. 27 No Friday Night Activities

Nov. 30 8:45 AM John 4 verses 17 to 21 (*First Sunday of Advent*)
Confidence on the Day of Judgment
10:30 AM Sunday School

Advent begins Sunday, Nov. 30

Iraq's displaced Christians seek new identities in Baghdad

<HTTP://WWW.NIQASH.ORG/> AS SEEN AT <WWW.PERSECUTION.ORG>

Many members of Iraq's Christian minority who fled Mosul have more to worry about than just finding a roof to put over their heads. Often they also need to renew the identity papers and other official documents they left behind. Critics say this process, which usually entails travelling to Baghdad, is still too expensive and complex.

After the extremist organization known as the Islamic State entered Mosul in early June, it took them several weeks to reveal their true intentions towards religious minorities in the area.

In mid-July, a message from the group was read out at mosques around the northern city of Mosul, which is also the capital of the province of Ninawa. The Islamic State, or IS, group gave the Christians in the town, three choices: Paying them a tax, converting to their version of Islam or death.

The leaders of the Christian community didn't trust the IS fighters so they and almost all other Christians left the city. And in doing so, many of them left behind almost everything they owned.

Samir Abdul-Samad, one of the Christians who left Mosul, told NIQASH that he left well before the midday-Saturday deadline. But he says he was in such a panic that he and his family left behind some of their official documents. After spending several days in one of the refugee camps set up in nearby Iraqi Kurdistan Abdul-Samad and his family were forced to travel to Baghdad to one of the special offices set up for internally displaced people to get new papers issued.

It's a common tale. In November the International Organization for Migration, an inter-governmental organization working in the field of migration, estimated that the number of displaced throughout Iraq was coming close to 2 million and that Iraqi Kurdistan was hosting almost half of these, around 47 percent. Many of these individuals left their homes with only the clothes on their backs and many now require new documents in order to claim, not just their identities, but various social welfare services.

Another displaced Iraqi, Haytham Matti, who comes from an area east of Mosul, says that although he managed to bring most of the necessary documents with him, he knows many people who were not able to. The Christians who left later, shortly before the ISIS group's deadline, lost nearly everything, from official documents to cash to their mobile phones, he said.

Some Christians in Mosul who refused to leave their homes were rounded up by the IS group and had all their possessions and papers confiscated before being released, says Matti, who is currently living in one of the basements in a church in the Iraqi Kurdish city of Sulaymaniyah.

Once the Christian families had left Mosul, the IS group began confiscating their homes and other property, distributing these to followers and fighters or making plans to sell it.