

The Sentinel-November 2018



THANK:FULLY LUTHERAN

*"Oh give **thanks** to the LORD, for He is **good**, for His steadfast love endures forever!" Psalm 107:1*

No question – later this month, November 22 to be exact, everyone ought to be thanking God—that is every American citizen! Yes, they ought to be, but many won't. Why?

It's not that we don't know how to give thanks. When we were young, we were taught to say, "thank you" for all the gifts we received, even the ones we didn't like. You remember how your mom would say, "Honey, don't forget to thank auntie for your monogrammed knee socks." And if you hesitated, she gave you the *look* which said, "Say thank you, or you're going to have a time-out that is going to take you into your Social Security years." So, yes, we were all taught how to give thanks.

So, what is the problem these days? Why do people hesitate? Let's look at our verse again: "Oh give thanks unto the Lord, *for He is good.*" Maybe that's the problem? Maybe we don't believe the Lord is good? I mean, listen to the crowds after a calamity. "Why, God? Why did You let this happen?" Do people believe the Lord is good? Sadly to say, many do not.

That's why you hear many people blame Him for every problem and pain, every disappointment, distress, dissatisfaction, disenchantment, and disaster. It's like not changing the oil in the car for 20,000 miles, but when their engine blows up, it's "Why God? Why?" Time and again, God gets the blame. He's the fall guy; the divine scapegoat.

So, if you feel that God is gunning for you, He certainly is NOT! Instead, we are to give thanks to the Lord unceasingly as well as in all circumstance, *because* [after all] **the Lord is good**. He is very good, in fact! This is our God. The problem is that we sinners are not always able to see it.

For example, those of you who drive: how many times have you had a close call? Did you congratulate yourself for your cat-like reflexes, for your brilliance under pressure, or did you thank the Lord who is good? Those of you who have been healthy this year, were you glad your parents gave you such healthy genes? Did you congratulate yourself on the fact that you keep yourself in grand shape? Did you think of yourself as superman or superwoman: stronger than all those viruses, bacteria, and other creepy crawlies? Or did you give thanks unto the Lord who is good? And those of you who *haven't* been healthy, did you thank God because things weren't worse, or because things aren't always this way?

This topic always brings me back to those Thanksgiving feasts, as we not only satisfy our hunger but "satisfy" it so much that we perhaps feel uncomfortable from over-eating. And, yet, I'm sure complaints fly, because leftovers are on the menu for days. Again, questioning: "Oh give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good?"

Therefore, when we're tempted to question our Lord's goodness or not able to see it clearly at all times, let's always be reminded of Jesus' manger, cross, and empty tomb. For there's no questioning this biblical certainty: all good gifts we have come from our Heavenly Father, including the best gift of all, Jesus! Hence our joyful and thankful response: God is good and His love endures forever! And so it shall be! A-men!

Have a blessed Thanksgiving,
Pastor Seehafer