



## **Sermon Study Guide November 24, 2024**

### **Lead Pastor Brian Bales - *Give Thanks...***

*Sing to the Lord, all the earth! Tell of his salvation from day to day.<sup>24</sup> Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!<sup>25</sup> For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and he is to be feared above all gods.<sup>26</sup> For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the Lord made the heavens.<sup>27</sup> Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and joy are in his place.<sup>28</sup> Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength!<sup>29</sup> Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering and come before him!*

*Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness;<sup>30</sup> tremble before him, all the earth; yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved.<sup>31</sup> Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice, and let them say among the nations, "The Lord reigns!"<sup>32</sup> Let the sea roar, and all that fills it let the field exult, and everything in it!<sup>33</sup> Then shall the trees of the forest sing for joy before the Lord, for he comes to judge the earth.<sup>34</sup> Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!*

*1 Chronicles 16:23-34 (ESV)*

#### **A Life Application Study Guide**

James 1:22-25 tells us to put into practice what we are discovering in God's word.

#### **DISCUSSION POINTS**

1. How do you celebrate or remember God's goodness and provision on a day set aside in the United States called Thanksgiving?

- How might we be better off if we called everyday Thanksgiving? How would your perspective be different when life is hard?

- How might you experience a greater peace and hope?

## 2. Thankful for God's Power

David knew firsthand about the power of God to save, both spiritually and physically. (v.23)

- How have you experienced God's power through your spiritual salvation? How might you describe this to someone who does not know and follow Jesus?
  
- In what ways have you experienced God's physical power and presence during a recent event in your life?
  
- Where might you have missed His presence and why?

God established the Earth and holds it together. (v.26)

- What circumstances in your life have caused you to question if God can, or will be in control? What “power” are you relying on in place of God?

- What drives you to trust him with what you cannot control?

### 3. Thankful for God’s Presence (v.27)

- David understood firsthand how awesome it was to have God’s presence with him as he brought the Ark back to Israel. As Christ followers today, we have the very presence of God living in us. We carry His presence with us as we go. When do you sense or have experienced God’s presence tangibly?

- When have you felt as if He was absent and if so, why?

- One translation of v.27 says *Splendor and majesty flow out of him, strength and joy fill his place.* What thoughts do you have about this verse knowing your own heart is God’s dwelling place?

4. Thankful for God's Goodness (v.34)

- How do you think about who God is? List some of His names or describe His character and attributes.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- What images come to mind when you think of God as your heavenly Father? Does this bring you comfort or apprehension? What are your beliefs about God that inform your answer?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Even though you may know the truth, can you think of a time when you felt like you had “blown it” with God because of a choice that you made? Why might we be accustomed to thinking about God in a transactional way?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- How do you reconcile and believe that God loves you for who you are today and not for what you have done either good or bad? As you consider all of King David's life, how do you have a broader view of who God is?

## **5. Living with Awe and Wonder**

- Why do you imagine that David felt so strongly about the awesomeness of God? How might your answer change as you think of both David's struggles and his triumphs?
  
- As Christ Followers, God's power, presence, and goodness should be our daily reality. When do you find it most difficult to experience the wonder of who God is?
  
- When do you find yourself most naturally in awe of God and worshipping Him?
  
- How will this teaching today move you into a daily rhythm of thanksgiving?

## **WALKING IT OUT**

Much of David's prayer of 1 Chronicles is reflected in the Psalms he wrote. David regularly poured out his pain and lament to God, yet over and over, he remembered God's power, presence, and goodness, and he gave thanks.

- Today ask God to renew your heart to the wonder of who He is, even in the midst of your trials, your fears, or even the ordinary events in your life.