



CrossRoads Notes:

Turn your Bibles to 1 Chronicles 29:16

Title: A Thanks Offering

Theme: What Do Christians Have to Be Thankful About?

Introduction: *Our opening text today is something that every born-again Christian should take to heart. For all that Christians have is given them from God, it is freely given and therefore they should be bound in the heart to use it for the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.* Bishop Patrick said it well; “we ought to acknowledge God in all spiritual things, referring every good thought, good purpose, and good work to His grace, from whom we receive it.” (Matthew Henry Commentary)

“O LORD our God, as for all this abundance that we have provided for building you a temple for your Holy Name, it comes from your hand, and all of it belongs to you.” (1 Chronicles 29:16)

Proposition: *I would propose to you that Christians are the temple that God cares about today, for 1 Corinthians 3:16 and 17 says, “Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy him; for God’s temple is sacred, and you are that temple.”* The Lord has given Christians their Spiritual gifts, talents and all the resources they need to be a temple of worship that expresses to all who see their lives that they are a children of God that are sold out to the cause of Christ and enjoying the abundant life promised by Him.

Interrogative Sentence: *Just what do Christians have to be thankful for?*

Transitional Sentence: *There are four things that the Holy Spirit of God wants to give Christians not only revelation of but illumination that cause them to say yes this is true, this is why I am what I am. This is the reason for living today.* The first is thing that Christians have to be thankful for is God’s saving grace.
(Ephesians 2:8-10)

F.F. Bruce so wonderfully points out, “This is the watchword for the reformation theology: ‘By grace alone, through faith alone, to God be the glory.’” The Bible teaches that everything Christians have comes by grace. “Grace” (*charis*) here affects man’s sinfulness and not only forgiveness to repentant sinners, but brings a joy from the Holy Spirit and a heartfelt thankfulness to the Lord Jesus. This grace changes the repentant sinners into new creations without destroying their individuality. (The Complete Word Study Dictionary)
(Romans 11:6)

Lord’s grace:

(2 Samuel 9:9-11)

Jonathan asked David (1 Samuel 20:14-17)

(John 3:16)

(1 Peter 1:20; Ephesians 3:11; Acts 2:23)

The incarnation, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ were not the result of a change of purpose to meet unforeseen circumstances; they were foreseen and Christ was foreordained in the eternal counsels of the God-head. God had determined that those who would accept Jesus as personal Savior and Lord would be forgiven before the foundations of the world were laid. (The Expositors Bible Commentary; Matthew Henry Commentary; Barnes Notes; The Pulpit Commentary)
(Ephesians 1:4-8)

“Mephibosheth” {me-fib’o-sheth}:

In her haste to flee from the results of sin, Mephibosheth’s nurse caused him to fall and he became crippled in his feet. (2 Samuel 4:4) Sin has its crippling effect on the soul of mankind, thus making the heart unable to perform to its full potential. It was once said, “Sin will take you farther than you want to go and keep you longer than you want to stay and cost you more than you want to pay.”

The name Mephibosheth is sometimes debated. Regardless of the debate it births forth the element “bosheth” meaning shame or in its original use “baal.” In 1 Chronicles 8:34 and 9:40, Mephibosheth is called Merib-Baal. It is worthy to note that in the Septuagint in 1 Kings 18:19,25 reads as “prophets of shame” for what is a familiar term, “prophets of Baal.” On this reckoning the name Mephibosheth would yield something like, “from the mouth of shame.” (Who’s Who in the Bible; The Expositors Bible Commentary; The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia)

Something else to consider in this allegory of David fulfilling his oath of showing Jonathan the “unfailing kindness like that of the Lord...” (1 Samuel 20:14) There is a hermeneutical concept known as typology. In showing the Lord’s kindness for the sake of Jonathan, David becomes a type of Christ (The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia; Matthew Henry)

Transitional Sentence: *Christians can be thankful for the saving grace of God and they are awaiting that home in heaven.*

(2 Corinthians 5:1)

C.S. Lewis said, “If you read history you will find that the Christians who did the most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next.” John Newton wrote, “When I get to heaven, I shall see three wonders things there: The first wonder will be to see many people there whom I did not expect to see; the second wonder will be to miss many people whom I did expect to see; the third and greatest of all will be to find myself there”

There are many things about heaven that Christians can thank the Lord about. While living on this earth they have to suffer the consequences of sin just as Job came to know the sufferings of this world. He lost children, possessions and knew bad health. (Job 19:25-27)

The children of God may very well be afflicted with disease, or loss of property, or be forsaken by his friends as Job was. However, there is going to be a day when their body will be resurrected and they will have a physical body that is healthy, not subjected to sickness, pain or death. (Gesenius Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon: Barnes notes; Thru the Bible; Matthew Henry Commentary; The Pulpit Commentary; 1 Corinthians 15:44)

Charles E. Fuller:

Transitional Sentence: *Christians do not have a guarantee that they will be around tomorrow, but they do have the sure promise of heaven and they can praise God because He has a plan to prosper them for His glory.* The Lord has an ultimate purpose for His people.

(Jeremiah 29:11-13)

All Christians will at times face conflicts, long periods between victories or wait a long time seeing the Lord's promises fulfilled. Yet there is a sure hope that God has plans to prosper them in His work. He knows the Spiritual gifts that they have. He knows their talents, resources, and ordained purposes and He will get done through them all that He desires. All he requires from them is ears longing to hear, hearts eager to obey and faith to wait upon Him and His timing.

Transitional Sentence: *Christians can find peace and rest in God's plan for them and they praise God because He is working in them.*

Christians can praise, trust and obey the Lord, knowing that He is their enabler. To enable someone is to give means, authority or power to do what you have directed them to accomplish. He not only supplies the children of God with all they need according to His sufficient grace, but He effects the changes in, through and with them for His greatest pleasure.

This apostle Paul describes in Philippians 2:13 the Christian's enablement for carrying out the Lord's exhortations, "for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose." (Philippians 2:13)

When Christians have a desire to expose themselves to the things of God through prayerfully reading the Bible, listening to Christian music and having Christian fellowship, then it is God who has put that desire in them and He will enable them to get all that done as they surrender to the Holy Spirit's control. If Christians have a desire to be witnesses for the Lord in the work place in the home or express the love of Christ to others, then it is God who has put that desire into them and as they surrender to His will they will find strength, the wisdom and the joy that comes in a walk of obedience. They praise Him because He calls the plays of life and He is never wrong.

James Dunn shared the true story of Roger Stauback:

There are many Christians who have learned the value of listening to the Head Coach, Jesus Christ and are getting victory over selfish living and arrogance. They know of God's transforming power. There are Christians who have simply surrendered to the Holy Spirit's promptings and they are getting victory over worry, fear, bitterness, depression and low self-esteem, thus blossoming in the power of God and living a changed life.

In Closing: Christians have a God who before the creation of the World chose to redeem wicked mankind through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. It is by His grace they are saved and not by any merit of works of their own. They have an eternal home awaiting them. They have a Lord that has a wonderful plan for them and they have the Lord living in them through the Spirit of Christ and He is working in them to accomplish His will. May Christians live a life lives that expresse a thankful heart. May they be the temples of praise that God desires them to be, He has provided all they need and they belong to Him. Let us pray!