

A SEASON FOR THANKSGIVING
Exodus 15:1-10

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BACKDROP

- Our nation is preparing to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday season.
- As God's elect, we do not have to wait until the fourth Thursday of November to recall God's goodness, grace and favor.
- Rather, everyday should be a time of **THANKSGIVING!**



BACKDROP



Today's Text

- Children of Israel had just crossed the Red Sea on dry land.
- The Egyptians had pursued them and pinned them against the Red Sea.
- Clearly in a perilous predicament, they were very concerned and feared the absolute worst.
- Appeared their fate was sealed, and many thought, “Life is over!”
- But Moses told them that the Egyptians that pursued them they would see no more forever. **Exodus 14:13**

Reassuring to know that we serve a God
who is able to fight our battles and put an
end to the difficulty and strife we face.

*God is our refuge and strength, a very present
help in trouble. Psalm 46:1*

REASONS TO BE THANKFUL

1. People in Our Lives
2. Challenging Times
3. Daily Provision
4. The Gospel/Salvation

I. RELATIONSHIPS & FRIENDS

- **The apostle Paul made a habit of offering THANKS for those saints who provided for and encouraged him.**

I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now.

Philippians 1:3-5

*We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints. **Colossians 1:3-4***

- Family and friends often provide purpose and motivation for living
- They make life worth living
- Provide encouragement
- Real friends also help to keep us grounded, firmly rooted and headed in the right direction
 - They help us stay on the “Straight & Narrow”
 - *Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful. Proverbs 27:6*

Surround yourself with the dreamers and the doers, the believers and thinkers, but most of all, surround yourself with those who see greatness within you, even when you don't see it yourself.

SURROUND YOURSELF WITH



**THOSE ON THE SAME
MISSION AS YOU**

II. The Challenges

*Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we **glory in tribulations [troubles, sufferings]**, knowing that tribulation [troubles, sufferings] produces perseverance, and perseverance, character, and character hope! **Romans 5:1-4***

- We learn more about ourselves in times of difficulty and strife than we do in moments of ease and comfort.
- Learn more when we have challenges, and things do not go as we planned or would have liked.
 - Performers always learn more after a loss than a victory
 - Learn what we need to improve upon.
 - Good coaches want there to be moments of difficulty and struggle to continue the learning process and growth

- Challenges build character and strength. *You can either be comfortable and stagnate or stretch yourself—become uncomfortable—and grow. Choose the latter.*
- We learn who are true friends and those we can depend on.
- *A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.* **Proverbs 17:17**

III. DAILY PROVISION

GOD has always provided for his own.

I have been young, and now am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his descendants begging bread.

Psalms 37:25

- Often though, God does not work on our time and in the way(s) we think He should.
- God's people left Egypt with material blessings, but what was the source?

*Now the children of Israel had done according to the word of Moses, and they had asked from the Egyptians articles of silver, articles of gold, and clothing. And the LORD had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they granted them what they requested. Thus they plundered the Egyptians. **Exodus 12:35-36***

- Good to serve a God who cares for his children and knows how to make things happen for them.
- *If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!*

Matthew 7:11

- **God's even better, because He does not authorize anything that will hurt us!!!**

IV. The Gospel / Salvation

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

Romans 1:16

**THE PROSPECT OF ETERNAL LIFE IS
THE GREATEST CAUSE TO GIVE
THANKS!!**

For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

Mark 8:36-37

Correlatively, it is great to live in a country where we can access God's grace and worship HIM in spirit and in truth freely and without fear of reprisal and persecution!



As you enjoy family, fellowship and food in abundance,
give thanks!!!

But remember, everyday should be --

A SEASON OF THANKSGIVING!

*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything
give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ
Jesus for you. I Thessalonians 5:16-18*

Lord's Invitation Extended to All

- **Be added to the Lord's body**

Hear the gospel (**Romans 10:17**)

Believe (**Acts 15:7; Hebrews 11:6**)

Repent (**Acts 2:38**)

Confess (**Matthew 10:32; Romans 10:10**)

Be baptized for the remission of sin
(**Acts 2:38**); **or**

Lord's Invitation (cont'd)

- **Be reconciled unto the Lord** (I John 1:8-9); or
- **Desire prayer** (James 5:16).

May GOD'S richest blessings be yours!