

SPEAK UP

This thought came from the 107th Psalm, *“Let the redeemed of the Lord say so!”* (vs.2), and it goes on to say, *“whom He has Redeemed from the hand of the enemy”* -- the enemy of course is the devil and his followers. This is a Psalm of Thanksgiving -- Thanking God for Redeeming His people from the hands of their enemies. It begins with the admonition, *“Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is Good! for His Mercy Endures Forever”* (vs.1). Four times he repeats a similar note of Praise, *“Oh, that men would Give Thanks to the Lord for His Goodness, and for His Wonderful Works to the children of men!”* (vs.8,15,21,31).

Why all this urgency of Giving Thanks to God? The Israelites had once again come back to the Lord from wandering on their own and the Psalmist is urging them to show their appreciation for the Love of God.

Throughout this Psalm it is noted that God continued to supply their needs in many ways and each time the same words were repeated to cause them to remember and Give Thanks. The final verse brings the matter very vividly to conclusion, *“Whoever is wise will observe these things, and they will understand the Lovingkindness of the Lord”* (vs.43).

Although this Psalm is directed to the wandering Israelites it is much needed today for those who profess to be Christians -- to take to heart and consider their own lives and dedication to the Lord.

Exactly how much sacrificial dedication do we honor the Lord with today in our lives? How much time do we spend in reading His Word? How much time do we spend talking to Him in Prayer? How much time do we spend sharing the Good News with others? How much of our finances do we spend on furthering the Gospel in our own neighborhood, and around the world? Exactly how much of us does the Lord really have?

A lot of questions, and the need for a lot of serious thought. We seem to take for granted all the Blessings that God provides for us -- food, shelter, clothing, transportation, family, health, strength, sound minds -- the list goes on and on.

True -- there are some of us hurting and in need -- especially in these times of financial upset, and health problems -- but, the Lord is the same, *“Yesterday, Today and Forever”* -- and as the Lord provided for His chosen people in the Old Testament, He will provide for His New Testament chosen people as well.

One of my favorite Bible verses comes to mind at this point -- *“You are a Chosen Generation, a Royal Priesthood, a Holy Nation, His own Special People, (WHY) that you may proclaim the Praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His Marvelous Light”* (1 Peter 2:9).

Think of it -- the God of Creation who made the Universe has chosen us, as followers of Christ, to be His Own Family -- not only that but has made us His Royal Priests, and part of His Holy Nation -- BUT WHY -- that we may be faithful in sharing the Good News to others -- proclaiming the Praises of Him who brought us out of the lost estate of darkness, into His Glorious and Perfect Light. He has opened our darkened sin-cursed eyes and shown us his path of Righteousness to Heaven -- and wants us to share it with others -- He wants us to SPEAK UP!

Now, you might say, "Well, I'm supporting my Pastor, and it is his job to do the preaching" -- OH? -- Or you might say, "I'm supporting Missionaries in Africa and China, and it's their job to reach the lost heathen" -- OH? -- Do really think that will hold water when you stand before God on That Day?

Seriously think of your life, your appreciation and dedication to the Lord! The world and our nation are going down-hill at a more rapid pace today than ever before. We have God's Perfect Word and Plan -- Can we remain silent? Can we remain placid when all around us are in need of Spiritual help? -- SPEAK UP!

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