

Bible Study - Grateful, prayerful, proclaimers – We go to them! (Psalm 105:1-5)

(In preparation for Sermon on 19th October by Colin Morrow – PIM Mission Partner)

Read Psalm 105:1-5 (ESV)

Tell of All His Wondrous Works

Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples!

² *Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works!*

³ *Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice!*

⁴ *Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually!*

⁵ *Remember the wondrous works that he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,*

Note: the underlined verbs: “give thanks”; “call upon His name” and “make known His deeds” in Hebrew are “imperatives” which means they are commands or orders (like in the army). These commands are not so we are saved [only Jesus can do that] – they are commands for us to respond to being saved for Heaven!

1. What does it mean to **“give thanks to the Lord”** (v1a)?

It means recognizing that every good and perfect gift we receive comes from God (James 1:17) and so our response to this is heartfelt gratitude to God. It is our act of worship to honour Him and praise Him as the giver of all the blessings we receive.

2. Why is **giving thanks to the Lord** a vital part of our relationship with God?

Giving thanks to the Lord reminds us to not take God for granted and reminds us that we live by grace (God’s undeserved favour). We need to remind ourselves that as fallen sinners we deserve nothing, but in God’s grace He has blessed us with salvation through His Son and He showers blessings on us each day of our lives. We would have nothing without God; that’s why it’s a vital part of our relationship to give Him our thanks! This is definitely something lacking in our society – not only do people not acknowledge and thank God – they often don’t thank people who have helped or provided for them. Pleases and thank yous have gone missing in our culture!

3. How can we **give thanks to Lord** in everyday life? What are you thankful to God for?

In every day life, we can give thanks to God: in prayer; in songs of praise; in worship; in thankful words; in acts of kindness that show God’s generosity; by showing the love of Jesus to others; by sharing the good news of Jesus with others because we are so thankful He has saved us!

I am thankful: for God sending Jesus; for Jesus for dying for my sins and rising again so I can have eternal life; for God’s Word; for the Holy Spirit; for the gift of prayer; for Heather and my family; for my friends; for my church family; for my home and possessions; for my recent holiday; and even for the trials/difficulties in life which give me perseverance and make me stronger and more dependent on God!

4. How do the following New Testament passages relate to ***giving thanks to the Lord***:

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray continually, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Paul tells us to give thanks in ALL circumstances – even in our trials and difficulties – because we then participate in Jesus' suffering and we become stronger and more like Jesus.

Paul also tells us it is "God's will in Jesus", for us to give thanks in all circumstances.

Paul is also saying to "Rejoice always" – we can do that because whatever else is going on in our lives, we can rejoice in the fact that Jesus came and died and rose again to save us for Heaven! That is something we can rejoice and be thankful for every day.

Colossians 3:15-17

¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Paul is saying we can be thankful because we have the peace of Christ in our hearts knowing that Jesus has purchased peace between God and humankind; and knowing that we are one body in Christ with other Christians. Paul also tells us we can sing praises to God with gratitude in our hearts because of the message of Christ that dwells richly in us and spurs us on to teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns and spiritual songs.

In fact Paul is saying everything we do, whether in word or deed, we can do in the name of Jesus, giving thanks to the Father through Jesus. The bottom line is without God we wouldn't be able to say or do anything – so God deserves our constant thanks!

Ephesians 5:20

²⁰ always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul is reminding us to give thanks to God the Father for everything – because God is the source of everything we have!

5. What does it mean to "***call upon His Name***" (v1b)

To "call upon His name" means to pray — to seek God's help, presence, and power, trusting in His character and promises. Calling on His name is both dependence and worship.

6. How does this phrase show gratitude and prayer go together?

If our prayers are simply a 'shopping list of requests' then we are just treating God like a 'genie in the bottle' and we don't develop a closeness to God.

Whereas if our prayers always include thanks and genuine gratitude then that draws us closer to God and recognizes that God is the true source of life and help!

7. What does this verse teach about the **attitude** of prayer? What are your prayers like? *Prayers should not be in an attitude of always 'wanting' things from God. First and foremost our prayers need to be of praise and adoration for who God is and what He is doing. "To God be the glory, great things He has done – so loved He the world, He gave us His Son" – this is a good example of what our attitude to prayer should be like.*

Our prayers should include these four attitudes:

Adoration – saying how great God is

Confession – telling God where we have failed to obey His Word and telling God how sorry we are for that – and having a desire to turn away from our sin and to become more like Jesus

Thanks – giving thanks to God for sending His Son; giving us His Word; sending His Spirit – and giving thanks for His constant provision; giving thanks for prayers answered and giving thanks for all the good and perfect things in our lives and in our world

Supplication – asking God for His help - ask, seek and knock (Matthew 7:7-11)

Sometimes our prayers don't include all four attitudes. That is okay when we are sending up an 'arrow' prayer during the day; but when we are having a serious time of prayer; these four attitudes should be present – to draw us closer to God.

8. How do the following New Testament passages relate to **calling upon His Name**:

Philippians 4:6-7

⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Paul is saying in the times we are anxious, instead of worrying, we are to call upon Jesus' name in prayer and petition. And notice we are to say these prayers in thanksgiving, anticipating God will answer those prayer requests.

Paul is also saying that when we call upon His Name, we receive the peace of God, which transcends all understanding. And this peace protects our hearts and our minds (which is often the source of our doubts/fears etc.). What a wonderful gift we receive by calling upon His Name.

Romans 10:13

¹³ for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

What a promise we have here that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord is saved for Heaven. The context is in v9 – that the person has declared "Jesus is Lord" and "believed that God has raised Jesus from the dead" – and in v10 – that the person has "believed in their heart" and "with their mouth professed their faith" – when such a person "calls on the name of the Lord" – they are saved because of their faith in Jesus' death and resurrection.

Matthew 6:9-13

⁹ “This, then, is how you should pray:

“Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,

¹⁰ your kingdom come,
your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹ Give us today our daily bread.

¹² And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

¹³ And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.’

Notice how Jesus teaches us to begin the prayer – by calling upon the Name of the Lord – saying “Our Father in Heaven”

As we call upon the Name of the Father in prayer – we acknowledging He is our Heavenly Father and we are our His children. We are family.

Notice that His Name is “hallowed” – i.e., Holy! Set Apart! Unique! One of a kind!

9. What does v1c (“**make known His deeds among the peoples**”) reveal about God’s desire for His people?

God wants His people not just to receive His goodness but to share it — to tell others about His mighty acts and His faithful love.

10. Why is **making known His deeds** an act of worship?

When we make known His deeds; we are declaring this publicly which brings glory and honour to God – which is praise and worship! When we speak of what He has done, we glorify His name and invite others to trust Him too.

11. In what ways do we have opportunities to “**make known His deeds**” today?

By showing and sharing the love of Jesus with others, we reflect His light into people’s lives.

By sharing our testimony; this is a powerful way to tell people how God/Jesus has transformed our lives and can transform their lives too.

By living in joy (rejoice always), our lives will point to Jesus!

12. How do the following New Testament passages relate to **making known His deeds**:

Matthew 28:19-20

¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

This is the Great Commission that Jesus gives His disciples and us – and the way that we make known His deeds is by “going and making disciples of all nations” - and by “baptizing

them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” – and “by teaching them to obey everything Jesus commanded”

Acts 1:8

⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

We make known His deeds by being His “witnesses”... “to the ends of the Earth!”

1 Peter 2:9

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

We make know His deeds by being His “chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and God’s special possession” – and this means our job is to “declare the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His wonderful light”. We are basically commanded to witness to people that Jesus is the Light of the World who can bring people out of the darkness of their sinful life and bring them into His glorious light which leads to eternal life!

13. How do verses 2-5 of Psalm 105 help us to obey verse **1**?

Verses 2-5 show us that giving thanks, calling upon His Name (praying), and making known His deeds (proclaiming) flow from singing praises to Him; remembering and telling others of His wondrous works; glorifying His Name; seeking the Lord and rejoicing in Him; and seeking the Lord’s strength.

14. What happens when we forget what God has done?

When we forget what God has done for us, we can lose joy, we can lose trust in Him and then fears and doubts creep in. Remembering, keeps our hearts stable, faithful and grateful; we know we can always rely on God in each and every situation we face.

15. What can you do to keep God’s **wondrous works** in mind this week? (Luke 22:19; Hebrews 10:23-25; Philippians 4:4)

Luke 22:19 – And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.”

We can remember Jesus’ body broken and His blood poured out for us on the cross – something we remember and celebrate each Lord’s Supper

Hebrews 10:23-25 – ²³ Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵ not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

We can hold on to the hope we have in Jesus. We can spur one another on toward love and good deeds. We can continue to meet together – and not give up. We can encourage each other – knowing each day, Jesus’ return is one day closer!

Philippians 4:4 - Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

We can remember to rejoice but it’s not rejoicing in ourselves; it’s rejoice IN THE LORD. Why? Because of what He has done - He has saved us for Heaven

What’s the BIG IDEA of Psalm 105:1-5?

God’s people are called to remember His goodness with thankful hearts, to seek Him in prayer, and to proclaim His mighty deeds with joy.

OR

Remember God’s goodness, thank Him, seek Him, and tell others with joy.

Finish in prayer: Lord, thank You for Your goodness and faithfulness. Help us to live with grateful hearts, to call on Your name in every moment, and to share with others what You have done in our lives. May our hearts always remember what you’ve done and rejoice in You. Amen.