

*Lesson 15*  
**The Psalms of  
Thanksgiving**



# Response to God



- Author 'most significant response a man can make to God is that of gratitude and thanksgiving
- Laments are during crisis: Thanksgiving after the crisis.
  - Heart moves from complaint to trust to thanksgiving.
  - “remembering the crisis is vital to thanksgiving.
- Difference between gratitude and thanksgiving.
  - The outward, verbal expression of that attitude.
- Give Thanks: 80 times in 39 verses BLB



## Question #2




- **What is thanksgiving (define it)?**
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# Importance of Thanksgiving




- It is a central element of worship, for without it, one focuses only on self and not upon God.
  - Further, out of the expression of gratitude grows love for and respect for God.
  - And, from that love emanates obedience, trust, and faith.
  - Teaches us to pray and express our emotions.
  - Contentment comes from a thankful heart.
  - God has repeatedly commanded active giving of thanks.
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# Form of Typical Thanksgiving Psalms



- Introduction: A call to worship, or blessing: stated intention to thank God.
  - A restatement or narrative of an individual or national lament.
  - An account of God's salvation or deliverance.
  - Conclusion Praise of God and/or a further call to worship.
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## Question #3




- What is the difference between gratitude and thanksgiving?
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# The Nature of These Psalms



- Usually focus upon a particular benefit or blessing or answer to prayer bestowed on an individual or the whole congregation.
  - Seek to give honor and praise to God for some definite benefit, while simultaneously thanking Him. And, they also seek to declare His honor before others, imploring them to likewise praise the Lord.
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## Question #4



- Is thanksgiving an integral part of worship?
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# Individual Psalms of Thanks




- Psalm 32
  - V1 Forgiveness is no sham, and the peace it brings is not caused by playing tricks with conscience.
  - V3 How heavy sin was when he failed to confess: destroyed him.
  - V 5 The least thing we can do, if we would be pardoned, is to acknowledge our fault. If we are too proud for this we doubly deserve punishment. A full confession softens and humbles the heart.



# Individual Psalms of Thanks




- V6 No doubt the cases of David has led thousands to seek the Lord with hopeful courage.
  - V7 Observe that the same man who in the fourth verse was oppressed by the presence of God, here finds a shelter in Him. See what honest confession and full forgiveness will do.
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# Individual Psalms of Thanks



- V 8 As servants take their cue from the master's eye, and a nod or wink is all that they require, so should we obey the slightest hints of our master, not needing thunderbolts to startle our sluggishness, be being controlled by whispers and love-touches. It is well for us to be the sheep of his pasture, following the guidance of his wisdom.
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# Individual Psalms of Thanks




- V 9 Understanding separates man from brute – let us not act as if we were devoid of it. Men should take counsel and advice, and be ready to run where wisdom points.
- V10 He who sows sin will reap sorrow in heavy sheaves. Sorrows of conscience, of disappointment, of terror, are the sinner's sure heritage in time and then for ever sorrows of remorse and despair.
- Faith is here laced at the opposite of wickedness: The wicked have a hive of wasps around them, many sorrows, but we have a swarm of bees storing honey for us.



# Individual Psalms of Thanks




- V11 Happiness is not only our privilege but our duty. Truly we serve a generous God; he makes part of our obedience to be joyful. How natural does it seem that a man blest with forgiveness should be glad.
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## Question #5



- Who do you believe benefits from giving of thanks?
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## Question #6




- What difference do you see between praise and thanks?
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# Individual Psalms of Thanks



- We have many things to be thankful for. Non more important than forgiveness. Do we thank God for this or are we like the 9 lepers who went on after being healed and never gave thanks?
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## Individual Psalms of Thanks



- What are you grateful for?
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