**Discovering the Goodness of God**

**by Pastor Fee Soliven**

**Psalm 107:8-15**

**Sunday Morning**

**July 17, 2022**

**Psalm 107:8-15**

8 Oh, that men would give thanks to the LORD for His goodness, And for His wonderful works to the children of men! 9 For He satisfies the longing soul, And fills the hungry soul with goodness. 10 Those who sat in darkness and in the shadow of death, Bound in affliction and irons—

11 Because they rebelled against the words of God, And despised the counsel of the Most High, 12 Therefore He brought down their heart with labor; They fell down, and there was none to help. 13 Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, And He saved them out of their distresses.

14 He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, And broke their chains in pieces. 15 Oh, that men would give thanks to the LORD for His goodness, And for His wonderful works to the children of men!

**What is a Blessing?**

The word “bless” has lost much of its meaning over time. We say “God bless you” when someone sneezes, and we often use similar terminology when we feel unable or unwilling to be more specific in prayer (“God, please bless uncle John”).

However, this word represents an important biblical concept. When you ask God to bless someone, you are saying to Him,

**“Lord, You know better than I what he or she lacks; please provide for him or her.”**

You are asking the Father to intervene in someone’s life and meet a need.

**Our most Important Blessing is Salvation**

Most Christians take for granted that salvation is primarily about going to heaven after death. But being redeemed has many other benefits. Here are a few other reasons why God saved us:

**To keep sin from Destroying our Lives**

The Lord gives us the power of the Holy Spirit so that we don’t have to be devastated by the power and consequences of sin.

**To be Conformed to the Likeness of His Son**

The Holy Spirit indwells us and slowly transforms our character to the character of Christ.

**To make us Trophies of His Grace**

In eternity, we will be examples of the awesome power of His goodness and mercy (Eph. 2:5-7).

**Ephesians 2:5-7**

5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

**To bring Glory to God**

As we live out changed lives, our salvation brings honor to Him.

**To do His Work on Earth**

Saints, God accomplishes His will through obedient believers.

**How did Jesus set an example for us?**

Our Savior came to earth with the purpose of serving mankind

**Luke 22:27**

For who is greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? Is it not he who sits at the table? Yet I am among you as the One who serves.

**He Fed the Multitudes**

Saints, when He saw their hunger, He miraculously provided food for them (Matt. 14:19-21).

**Matthew 14:19-21**

19 Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass. And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes.

20 So they all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments that remained. 21 Now those who had eaten were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

**He Healed the Sick**

For example, He stopped to heal Bartimaeus, a poor beggar who was blind (Mark 10:46-52).

**Mark 10:46-52**

46 Now they came to Jericho. As He went out of Jericho with His disciples and a great multitude, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the road begging. 47 And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

48 Then many warned him to be quiet; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" 49 So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be called. Then they called the blind man, saying to him, "Be of good cheer. Rise, He is calling you." 50 And throwing aside his garment, he rose and came to Jesus.

51 So Jesus answered and said to him, "What do you want Me to do for you?" The blind man said to Him, "Rabboni, that I may receive my sight." 52 Then Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus on the road.

**He Forgave Sins**

To the woman caught in adultery, He offered forgiveness and a fresh start, not condemnation (John 8:10-11).

**John 8:10-12**

10 When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, "Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?" 11 She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more." 12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

**He Raised the Dead**

Lazarus died prematurely and Jesus brought him back to life.

**John 11:43-44**

43 Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" 44 And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go."

**He Comforted His Followers**

Saints, in John 14:1-2, He said,

**John 14:1-2**

1 "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

**He Assured them when they were Confused**

Saints, before He was crucified, He reassured them that they would see Him again (John 14:18-20).

**John 14:18-20**

18 I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. 19 "A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also. 20 At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.

**He Saved those who were Lost**

For example, He restored a wild demoniac to a peaceful, normal life (Mark 5:5-15).

**Mark 5:5-15**

5 And always, night and day, he was in the mountains and in the tombs, crying out and cutting himself with stones. 6 When he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and worshiped Him. 7 And he cried out with a loud voice and said, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God that You do not torment me."

8 For He said to him, "Come out of the man, unclean spirit!" 9 Then He asked him, "What is your name?" And he answered, saying, "My name is Legion; for we are many." 10 Also he begged Him earnestly that He would not send them out of the country. 11 Now a large herd of swine was feeding there near the mountains.

12 So all the demons begged Him, saying, "Send us to the swine, that we may enter them." 13 And at once Jesus gave them permission. Then the unclean spirits went out and entered the swine (there were about two thousand); and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and drowned in the sea.

14 So those who fed the swine fled, and they told it in the city and in the country. And they went out to see what it was that had happened. 15 Then they came to Jesus, and saw the one who had been demon-possessed and had the legion, sitting and clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid.

**He was Patient with those who Didn’t Understand**

Nicodemus couldn’t comprehend how he, a grown man, could be born again. Jesus patiently explained that the second birth is spiritual (John 3:3-6).

**John 3:3-6**

3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." 4 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"

5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

**He Gave them Peace when they were Worried**

John 14:27 says, “My peace I give to you . . . . Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.”

**John 14:27**

“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid”

**He Sacrificed Himself for the Sins of Humanity**

He willingly saves anyone who asks for forgiveness (John 3:16).

**How should we serve others?**

The Lord has been generous with us, and we should be willing to reach out to those around us. Because He . . .

**Saved Us**

we should “preach the gospel to all creation” (Mark 16:15).

**Mark 16:15-18**

15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

17 And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; 18 they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

**He Loves Us**

we must “keep fervent in [our] love for one another” (1 Pet. 4:8).

**Forgave our Sins**

you and I can forgive those who wrong us (Eph. 4:32).

**Provides for Us**

we should be generous with others (1 Tim. 6:18).

**Teaches us the Truth**

we should share our spiritual insights with others (Gal. 6:6). Comforts us, we can console others (2 Cor. 1:3-4).

**Encourages Us**

(Rom. 15:5), we should lift up others.

**Accepts Us**

we can “accept one another” (Rom. 15:7).

**Admonishes Us**

we should encourage and caution those making unwise or sinful choices (Rom. 15:14).

**Is Patient with Us**

you and I must be forbearing with others (Eph. 4:2).

**Is Gracious to Us**

we can “be kind to one another” (Eph. 4:32).

**Challenges Us**

to be obedient, we should encourage other believers “to love and good deeds” (Heb. 10:24).

**Shares with Us**

we must contribute to the needs of others (Eph. 4:28).

Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

**Short Movie Slide>**

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let’s Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace.” In Jesus Name!**