

**Remnant Life Church**  
November 18, 2018  
**My Thanksgiving Catalogue**  
**Psalm 103:1-6**

- Thanksgiving Day is this coming Thursday
  - Celebrated in the US, Canada, some of the Caribbean Islands, and Liberia (south-central west coast of Africa)
  - Has in its roots around the time of the Protestant Reformation in the early 16<sup>th</sup> century
    - Along with the harvest festivals throughout Europe that were then brought to the New World
    - Settlements in Virginia as early as 1607
  - The event that Americans commonly call the "First Thanksgiving" was celebrated by the Pilgrims after their first harvest in the New World in October 1621.
    - This feast lasted three days, and was attended by 90 Native Americans and 53 Pilgrims
  - The First National Proclamation of Thanksgiving was given by the Continental Congress in 1777 from its temporary location in York, Pennsylvania, while the British occupied the national capital at Philadelphia. Delegate Samuel Adams created the first draft.
  - George Washington on October 3, 1789, stated in a proclamation the first national Thanksgiving Day designated by the government of the United States of America
    - Listen to the words spoken by the President
    - *"...that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations and beseech him to pardon our national and other transgressions, to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually, to render our national government a blessing to all the people, by constantly being a Government of wise, just, and constitutional laws..."*
  - For many decades it was left primarily to the President to declare a day of thanksgiving – most did, others did not
    - When they did not the Governors of the individual states would many times set a date aside
  - Thanksgiving became a federal holiday, to be observed every year, at the proclamation of Abraham Lincoln to be held the final Thursday of each November (now the 4<sup>th</sup>)
    - NOTE – this declaration was made in 1863 – in the middle of the Civil War
    - Thankful even in the midst of a great conflict
    - **Psalm 71:14-15** - *But I will hope continually and will praise You yet more and more. My mouth shall tell of Your righteousness and Your salvation all the day, for I do not know their limits.*
  - 55 years ago, the tradition of the President “pardoning” a turkey to spare his life was instituted by President John Kennedy

- The date was Nov 19, 1963 – just 3 days before he would arrive in Dallas
- Today it is a day of the “4 F’s” – family, food, fellowship, and football
- But there is also a problem that is a clear statement of who we have become in the 21<sup>st</sup> century...
  - ...we follow a day of thanksgiving for what we have been given, by a day of thinking solely about what we want to possess (Black Friday)
  - Multiple dedicated websites
  - Last year – estimated 58.3 billion spent on that day alone
- How many remember the Christmas Catalogue?
  - It was an anticipated delivery to every house for many years
  - *Sears Wish Book* was published every year since 1933
    - 300+ pages of every conceivable item someone could want for Christmas
  - In 2005 – *Little Big Wish Book* – 100 pages – 2.5 x 2.5 in size
  - 2010 – the entire catalogue was made digital for handheld devices

And so, before we gather together on Thursday, I want you to consider creating your own catalogue this morning - not a Christmas Catalogue, but a Thanksgiving Catalogue

- **Turn to - Psalms 103**
- It is very true that most blessings are often taken for granted – certainly in this country that is true – consider the following...
  - If you got up this morning more healthy than sick you are more blessed than 6 million people around the world who will not live out the day
  - If you recognize the blessing of meeting here this morning without fear of harassment, arrest, torture, or even death... you are more blessed than 3 billion other people
  - If you have food in your house, clothes on your back, a roof over your head at night with a place to sleep...you are better cared for than 75% of the world’s population
  - If you have money in the bank, in your wallet or purse, and some spare change lying around the house...you are in the top 8% of the world’s population in wealth
- How can we have such incredible blessings and yet still complain?
- David writes in this Psalm a song of praise for God’s blessing
- **READ Psalm 103:1-6**
- If we were to read the rest of the chapter you would see that there is not one request, only thanks
- This Psalm has been compared to a river that flows continuously but broadens as it goes because...
  - It begins with personal and individual praise (**vv 1-6**)
  - Then focuses on national praise (**vv 7-19**)
  - And finally, universal praise (**vv 20-22**)
- There are 6 blessings the Psalmist writes of in verses **3, 4, and 5**



- But first, v 2 encourages us not to forget what He has done for us
  - Theologian Charles Spurgeon said, “We often write our blessings in the sand, but we engrave our complaints in marble.”
  - God is not deficient in His great blessings, it is our own ingratitude that hinders us from praising Him and giving thanks.

### 1. Forgiveness

- *He forgives all my sins (103:3a)*
- This is the very foundation of our lives – we are forgiven
- Without forgiveness we have no hope
- Reconciliation with God is from what all other blessings flow
- *For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (Col.1:13-14)*
- This is also the reason we must be quick to forgive others

### 2. Healing

- *...and heals all my diseases; (103:3b)*
- The Christian must understand that healing is not restricted to the physical – just as blessing should never be restricted to financial
- It is the healing of our minds, souls, and spirit which is the first of what is healed through forgiveness
- The Bible often uses the term sickness for sin and healing for salvation
- **Luke 5** Jesus heals the paralyzed man; forgives his sins
- That is not to say that sin necessarily causes sickness (**John 9:1-3**) but sin, if left unchecked, will impact every area of your life, including your body.
- The healing that God gives us is for every area of our lives – it starts, most importantly, with the healing of our relationship with Him

### 3. Redemption

- *He redeems me from death (103:4a)*
  - What does redeem mean?
    - To make something that is bad more acceptable
    - To exchange for (coupon, etc...)
    - To buy something back (like a stock or bond)
- ALL of these apply to the work of God’s saving grace in our lives
- The other reason David uses the word redeem is to remind the people that God redeemed or delivered them from Egypt at the very beginning of their recorded history
- The account in **Ex 12-15** is written as someone being rescued from falling into a great pit (David’s word in v 4)
- The word pit is also translated as the word Sheol (**Ps 6:5; 16:10; 28:1**) – the realm of the dead, the lost, with no hope
  - And for 400 years in slavery that was the condition of God’s people – without hope

- *Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them. (Luke 1:68)*

#### 4. Love

- *He crowns us with love (103:4b)*
  - o To be crowned is to place something over you
  - o It is also a designation of status or position and a symbol of authority; royalty
  - o We have, through His love for us, been given the position of co-heirs with Jesus (**Rom 8:17**)
  - o *But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; (1 Peter 2:9)*
  - o Royal – kingly in nature
  - o Because of that we have been given authority to stand firm and overcome the trials and tribulations of the world
- How can we not be thankful for that gift which we do not deserve?

#### 5. Satisfaction

- *He fills my life with good things (103:5a)*
- Almost everybody seems to be searching for and in pursuit of a fountain of youth. But I'm a realist, & when standing in front of a mirror I realize I wasn't born with graying hair, weakening eyesight and hearing or the wrinkles I have now.
- Maybe Paul explained it best when he said that "*Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.*" (**2 Cor. 4:16**)
- Satisfaction in the Lord is not about possessions, the total absence of conflict in our lives, or even what I see
- It is about His presence that satisfies the very deepest desire of our souls – to be in close communion with our Creator

#### 6. Renewal

- *So that your youth is renewed like the eagles (103:5b)*
- Preached a 7-part series here at RLC back in the fall of 2013;
  - o *Becoming an Eagle Christian* – (sermon archives on-line)
- The adult eagle will, later in its life, pluck out its own feathers in order to allow fresh, new ones to grow
- This cannot feel good – sometimes the things God does to bring about renewal in our lives can be painful
  - o Most often emotionally and mentally
  - o Can we recognize the times that He is doing that or are we all too willing to give Satan "credit" for what is going on that might be difficult or painful?
- Everything God does is to strengthen and renew us
  - o **Jer 29:11** - *For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*
- It is a blessing of that hope and future we enjoy if we are willing to go through the tough times to get there