

Psalm 118

Thanksgiving for Jehovah's Saving Goodness

PSA 118:1 Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; For His lovingkindness is everlasting.

PSA 118:1 O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever! NRSV
PSA 118:1 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. NIV

PSA 118:2 Oh let Israel say, "His lovingkindness is everlasting." Psa. 32:24-28.

PSA 118:3 Oh let the house of Aaron say, "His lovingkindness is everlasting."

PSA 118:4 Oh let those who fear the Lord say, "His lovingkindness is everlasting."

- **This exhortation includes us.**
- **It includes us because we "fear the Lord" and because we are "Israel."**

1. We are the seed or offspring of Abraham.

GAL 3:7 Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham.
GAL 3:29 And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

2. We are spiritual Israelites.

GAL 6:16 And those who will walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and [even] upon the Israel of God.
GAL 6:16 Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule, even to the Israel of God.

Some Thoughts

1. Let all of us say, "His lovingkindness is everlasting."	4. He wants all to be saved. (1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Pet. 3:9).
2. He does good to all men. (Matt. 5:43-45).	5. He blesses His children with "all spiritual blessings." (Eph. 1:3).
3. He uses His goodness to lead men to Him. (Rom. 2:4).	

PSA 118:5 From my distress I called upon the Lord; The Lord answered me and set me in a large place.

PSA 118:6 The Lord is for me; I will not fear; What can man do to me?

HEB 13:6 so that we confidently say, "The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid. What shall man do to me?"

1. Men can do awful things to the outward man.

1. They can mock us. (Matt. 5:10, 11).	3. They can torture us or imprison us or both.
2. They can drive from homes and create huge financial and health problems. (Acts 8:4).	4. They can kill us. (Lk. 21:16; Rev. 2:10)..

2. They cannot harm the soul. (Lk. 21:18; Matt. 10:28).

LUK 21:18 "Yet not a hair of your head will perish.

MAT 10:28 "And do not fear those who kill the body, but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

- a. Men can do horrible things to us physically, but they cannot destroy the soul unless we permit them to do so.
- b. Many a believer has remained faithful even when persecuted.
- c. Those who do not trust in God will have “both soul and body” destroyed “in hell.”
- d. “Destroyed” means devoted to eternal misery.

3. **They [our enemies] cannot separate us from the love of God.**

ROM 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 Just as it is written, "For Thy sake we are being put to death all day long; We were considered as sheep to be slaughtered." 37 But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

PSA 118:7 The Lord is for me among those who help me; Therefore I shall look with satisfaction on those who hate me.

Middle Verse of the Bible

Middle of our hearts

PSA 118:8 It is better to take refuge in the Lord Than to trust in man.

1. Men fail us. See Psa. 40:4.
 - a. The best of men are weak and fallible, and may disappoint us for any number of reasons.
 - b. The worse are often “rotten to the bone.”
2. God will never, never fail us, and He is infinite in every way and absolutely infallible.

PSA 118:9 It is better to take refuge in the Lord Than to trust in princes.

PSA 118:10 All nations surrounded me; In the name of the Lord I will surely cut them off.

PSA 118:11 They surrounded me, yes, they surrounded me; In the name of the Lord I will surely cut them off.
 PSA 118:12 They surrounded me like bees; They were extinguished as a fire of thorns; In the name of the Lord I will surely cut them off.
 PSA 118:13 You pushed me violently so that I was falling, But the Lord helped me.

PSA 118:14 The Lord is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation. See Exod. 15:2

1. God is our source of strength. (Psa. 46:1).
2. He gives us reason for song and rejoicing.
3. He is the only means of our salvation. (Acts 4:12).

PSA 118:15 The sound of joyful shouting and salvation is in the tents of the righteous; The right hand of the Lord does valiantly.

PSA 118:16 The right hand of the Lord is exalted; The right hand of the Lord does valiantly.

PSA 118:17 I shall not die, but live, And tell of the works of the Lord.

PSA 118:18 The Lord has disciplined me severely, But He has not given me over to death.

PSA 118:19 Open to me the gates of righteousness; I shall enter through them, I shall give thanks to the Lord.

PSA 118:20 This is the gate of the Lord; The righteous will enter through it.

PSA 118:21 I shall give thanks to Thee, for Thou hast answered me; And Thou hast become my salvation.

Jesus Compared to Building Stone Rejected By Builders

PSA 118:22 The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief corner stone.

1. This is a simple statement affirming the stone the builders rejected became the most important stone in the house.
2. As we read God’s word, the rich meaning of this statement unfolds.
3. It is from Jesus that we first learn it is a messianic prophecy.

MAT 21:42 Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'? See Acts 4:10, 11.

Jesus Is The Stone

1. Chief cornerstone - Eph. 2:20	3. Stone of stumbling - 1 Pet. 2:8
2. Rejected stone - Psa. 118:22; 1 Pet. 2:7	4. Precious stone - 1 Pet. 2:4, 6; Isa. 28:16.

- **Jesus is a Stone with blood.** His blood is precious. (1 Pet. 1:19).

1PE 1:19 but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.

Jesus

1. He is the foundation of church. (Matt. 16:18; 1 Cor. 3:11).
2. He is more technically the chief cornerstone. He is the most important stone in the foundation.

3. The apostles and prophets are part of the foundation. (Eph. 2:20).

EPH 2:20 built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone.

Christians

1. As Christians, we are the upper structure. (1 Pet. 2:5).

1PE 2:5 you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

2. The “spiritual house” is God’s house. (1 Pet. 2:5).

3. It is the temple of the Holy Spirit. (1 Cor. 3:16, 17).

1CO 3:16 Do you not know that you are a temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? 17 If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are.

4. This house has Jesus as Savior and Redeemer. (Eph. 5:23, 25).

Priests

1. We are priests in the house. (1 Pet. 2:5, 9).

2. We are to offer up “spiritual sacrifices.” (1 Pet. 2:5).

3. These are “acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” (1 Pet. 2:5).

PSA 118:23 This [stone] is the Lord's doing; It is marvelous in our eyes.

This Is The Day Which The Lord Has Made

PSA 118:24 This is the day which the Lord has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

1. Each day is a gift from God.

2. **Option** - We can rejoice and be glad or we can be sad.

3. God acknowledges each has its problems (Matt. 6:34), but we still are to be happy and rejoice in the Lord. (Phil. 3:1; 4:4).

Reasons For Rejoicing

1. The day has come from God.

2. It may be our last. (Prov. 27:1).

3. God is Lord of the day.

4. He wants us to trust Him on good and bad days.

5. Good things can happen on bad days.
6. We can learn good things on bad days.
7. God can bless the small things we do, and make them rich blessings.
8. Our happiness is based on our relationship with God and Jesus, not outward circumstances. (Phil. 4:10-12).

PSA 118:25 O Lord, do save, we beseech Thee; O Lord, we beseech Thee, do send prosperity!

PSA 118:26 Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord; We have blessed you from the house of the Lord.

PSA 118:27 The Lord is God, and He has given us light; Bind the festival sacrifice with cords to the horns of the altar.

PSA 118:28 Thou art my God, and I give thanks to Thee; Thou art my God, I extol Thee.

PSA 118:29 Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; For His lovingkindness is everlasting.

1. Each of us can call God “my God.”
2. Each of us should bless and praise God daily.
3. God loves us forever - now and in eternity.

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