

God's Mindfulness of Man

No. 199

Introduction.

- I. Years ago a dear **old lady went about town carrying a clothe bag**. She searched through the garbage cans and rubbish heaps and when she found anything she thought she could use, she placed it in her bag, saying, "Thank God for that."
- A. I am convinced that if we thanked God for every good thing that came our way, life would be one continual round of thanksgiving. God has blessed us with 10,000 (countless) blessings.
- B. **L.O. Sanderson**, a late gospel preacher and renowned song writer, wrote this hymn known and loved by all of us.

<p>"Though I, through the valley of shadow, O'er mountain or troubled sea, As oft in the darkness have traveled, The Lord has been mindful of me!</p> <p>Much more than my grief and sorrow, Much more than adversity, Much more than all I have given, The Lord has been mindful of me!</p>	<p>I'm rich! I am saved! I am happy! I've health and prosperity! I've friends! I have doors ever open! The Lord has been mindful of me!</p> <p>The Lord has been mindful of me! He blesses and blesses again! My God is the God of the living! How excellent is His name!"</p>
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- II. The words of this beloved hymn are based on the famous 8th psalm. (Psa. 8:1-5).
 - A. In this psalm, David asked the question, "**What is man that thou art mindful of him?**"
 - B. As David viewed the vastness of the universe and the glory of God's majestic creation, he could not understand how God could be so mindful of minute man. Even though David could not fathom it, he realized that God has been very mindful of man. He made us in His own image and has made us but a little lower than the angels.
- I. **Physical Needs** - God has been mindful of our physical needs.
 - A. God has blessed most of us with excellent **mental health**.
 1. We have the power to reason and learn and feel emotions.
 2. Perhaps we never realize the extent of this blessing until we see someone who has lost or has never had this power.
 - B. God has blessed us with **physical health**.
 1. Most of us are able to work and carry on life. We have the ability to see, to hear, to talk and to walk. Even if we are handicapped or in poor health, we can still find cause to be thankful.
 2. About **40 years ago** I was in the hospital for approximately a week in a great deal of pain. Before the week was over, I began to feel sorry for myself as others sometimes do. A day or two before I was released, I met a brother in Christ who had been seriously injured in an automobile accident.

He had been in the hospital six months and would be in it for at least another 3 to 6 months. Even when he got out he would be crippled for the rest of his life. As I looked at him and others about me, I felt ashamed of myself. I realized the Lord has been very mindful of me.

C. God has blessed us with **material things**. (1 Chron. 29:12a; Matt. 5:45; Jas. 1:17).

1. All of us have been richly blessed by God. We have shelter, clothing, food and many other things. It will help us realize the magnitude of our blessings if we will briefly consider the condition of others.
2. Reports show there are more than 5 or 6 million American families who have incomes of less than \$12,000 dollars a year.
3. There are, at least, a billion people in the world who have an annual income of less than \$200.00.
4. About half of the world's population goes to bed hungry each night. In many places in the world thousands of children are crying out just for a morsel of food. They wander from place to place hopeful of getting enough food to sustain them for another day.
5. **Tom Tune**, a missionary in Hong Kong, wrote the following about the poverty there.

“Over 50,000 people live in squatter huts in Hong Kong. More than 150,000 live in bed spaces. In the day they are rented by night workers and at night by day workers. More than 60,000 live on roof tops and about 50,000 in shops, garages, corridors and staircases. Nearly 70,000 live in verandahs and cocklofts, 12,000 in basements, 10,000 in stalls and caves, and about 30,000 in boats and hulks.

There are as many as 3,000 living on one acre of land, and in one six acre tract there are over 100,000.

More than 20,000 in Hong Kong have no housing of any kind. They sleep in the street. Each night they wander around waiting until about nine o'clock when the shops close so they can put their 'beds' outside the doors.”

Conditions like these exist not only in Hong Kong, but also in Indonesia, India, Africa, South America, and in many other parts of the world.

6. As many of you know, **Oklahoma City**, as most cities, has many people living in extreme poverty. Thousands of people live on an economical level we cannot fathom. They make most of us look wealthy. While I was in college in Oklahoma City, I made deliveries to many of the supermarkets one winter. On more than one occasion I saw people take their meals from the garbage can in the back of the supermarkets. This is a sight that will bring tears to your eyes. This is a sight that will make you very thankful for what you have.
7. **Charles Spurgeon** told a story of a poor woman with two little girls. They did not have a bed to lie upon and had little clothing. When winter came they were about to freeze. The mother took a cellar door off the hinges and set it in front of them, to shelter them from the cold wind. When the mother complained of their great misfortune in life, one of the little girls said, “Mother, what do those dear little

children do who have no cellar door to put in front of them?" This little girl had the Christian attitude toward life. She was thankful for what they had. She knew others were in even a worse condition they were.

II. **Social Needs** - God has been mindful of our social needs.

- A. God has blessed us with mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, grandparents. He has blessed us with husbands and wives. He has blessed us with children, friends and other loved ones.
- B. For these ones who care we should be most grateful.

III. **Spiritual Needs** - God has been mindful of man's spiritual needs.

- A. Because of sin, man deserved to spend eternity in the devil. Realizing that man was doomed for hell, God sent His only Son into the world to die for man. (Rom. 5:8).
 - 1. Now through Jesus Christ we do not have to suffer punishment. Christ has suffered for us.
 - 2. Through Jesus we can have eternal life if we love and trust Him.
- B. Not only has God given His Son for our sins, He has **given us the scriptures to guide us**.
 - 1. Without the scriptures we would wander in the darkness and fall back into a state of condemnation.
 - 2. The scriptures show us the way to God. (Psa. 119:105; 2 Tim. 3:16, 17).
- C. God also **gives us strength** to meet the problems and sorrows of life. (Psa. 121:1, 2).
 - 1. God made man and He knows how to help man in time of trouble.
 - 2. Oh, we should be thankful that when troubles gather around us and hearts are full of fear that we can look up to our God and He will still our fears and bring us through.

IV. **Eternal Needs** - God has been mindful of our eternal needs.

- A. **God knows man yearns for an everlasting existence.** He does not want his existence to end in the grave. His Son has prepared for us a beautiful mansion in heaven. When Christ comes again we will be raised from the graves and ascend to be with God and His Son in heaven for all eternity. There we will not know sorrow and pain. There we will not know death or disease any more. There we will enjoy all the glorious and perfect things God has prepared for His children.
- B. Because God has been mindful of our eternal needs, the Christian can say, "Others may have **more wealth**, but I have Christ. Others may have **more learning**, but I am a Christian. Others may have **greater social standing**, but I have fellowship with the King of heaven. Others may live in **more pretentious** houses, but I have a glorious mansion in heaven waiting for me."

Conclusion.

- I. **One time a woman, who was blind**, had some company over for dinner. After the company left, the woman sat all alone in her living room in total darkness. As she sat there, she began to feel very sorry for herself and went and fell across her bed and began to cry her eyes out. After she had laid on the bed a long time, she began

to count her blessings, and name them one by one and when she finished counting she said she could not cry another tear. Though she was blind, she still had much to be thankful for. And certainly everyone of us should count our blessings. Indeed God has been mindful of us.

II. **Edgar A. Guest** has written these words of gratitude that should be on our hearts and lips.

I am thankful for my health and for the strength to bear the burdens of the day; for all the friends who have made our little world brighter and better by their presence.

I am thankful for the prosperity I have known, and for the splendors I have seen, for the glad voices I have heard, and for all the happy yesterdays.

I am thankful for life, with all that it means of service and sorrow; for the peaceful roof which shelters us, and for the love and laughter of our children.

I am thankful for the blessings which have come to us and for the promise which the future holds. I am thankful that my children are Americans; that the opportunities on this land of freedom shall be theirs to know and the benefits of it plentiful life theirs to enjoy.

I am thankful for all which has made life so far a pleasant journey; for our book of happy memories, and for that faith which has sustained us in shadows.

Grant, O God, that by our lives our gratitude may be shown.

May we continue to the end unembittered, remembering always that the greater our loss appears, the greater our joy has been. Grant us the wisdom to know the false from the true, that we may our burdens bear bravely. Teach us to find pleasure in service, hope in sorrow, and peace when the day is done.

III. **Some time back a little girl was going to have birthday party.** As the day neared, her mother cleaned the house thoroughly, baked the cookies, and made every necessary preparation. On the day of the party, the little girl said, "Mother, be sure to put on your long white gloves when you come to serve the refreshments. Please don't forget." The mother promised she would put on her gloves. But during the party she was so busy that when she brought in the refreshments, she did not have on the long white gloves. After the party, the little girl was in tears. She said, "Mother, why didn't you put on your long white gloves? Why didn't you? I was never so embarrassed in my life. I can never face my friends again." The mother said, "Come over to the sofa, darling, and let me tell you something. One day when you were a baby, and you were sleeping in your crib, I was in the back yard hanging out some clothes. All at once I saw smoke pouring out of the house. I ran into the house, grabbed a heavy coat, and fought my way through the flames with naked hands. I saved your life, and that is why mother's hands are so withered and scarred." The little girl, with tears streaming down her cheeks, took her mother's hands into her own and kissed them over and over, saying, "Mother, they are the most beautiful hands in all the world. They saved my life."

IV. **This is a slight illustration of what Jesus did for us.** The cross of itself is a ugly thing. The victims of crucifixion were humiliated and brutalized in the worse possible way. The families suffered great embarrassment. But Jesus loved us so much that He went to Calvary and suffered all of this for us. He saved us by His death. So let us love Him in return. Let us surrender our lives to Him and thank Him for loving us so much. The invitation is now extended. Come as we stand and sing.