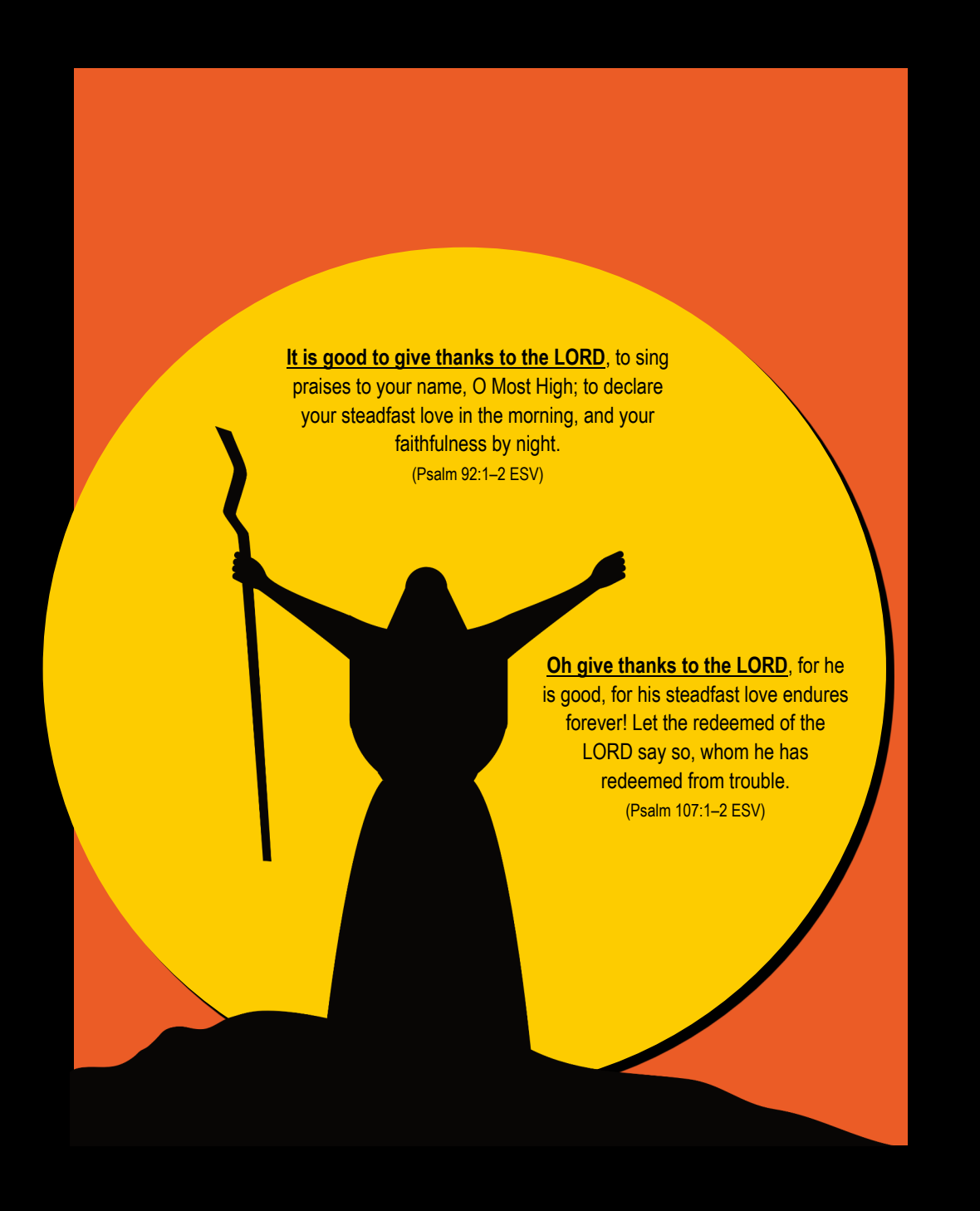


GIVING THANKS TO THE LORD

—INSTRUCTIVE COMMANDS THAT PRODUCE THANKSGIVING THAT HONORS YAHWEH



It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to your name, O Most High; to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night.

(Psalm 92:1–2 ESV)

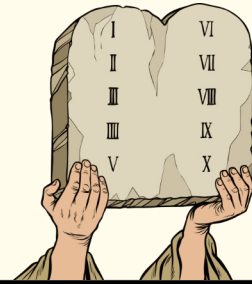
Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever! Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he has redeemed from trouble.

(Psalm 107:1–2 ESV)

OUTLINE ... (1 Chronicles 16:7-34 ESV)

On the day the ark returns to its rightful place in Jerusalem to serve as the primary symbol of God's presence and power in worship, David officially sets in motion proper thanksgiving to God.

- Then on that day David first appointed that thanksgiving be sung to the LORD by Asaph and his brothers (1 Chronicles 16:7 ESV).



1. WE ARE COMMANDED/EXHORTED TO GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, 16:8-13.

- (1 Chronicles 16:8-13 ESV) Oh **give thanks to the LORD**; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples! 9 Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works! 10 Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice! 11 Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually! 12 Remember the wondrous works that he has done, his miracles and the judgments he uttered, 13 O offspring of Israel his servant, children of Jacob, his chosen ones!

To give thanks means in a general way to express gratitude or show appreciation to (someone). The Hebrew word is *yâdâ* and means literally to use the hand, as in holding out the hand; physically, to throw (a stone, an arrow) at or away; especially to revere or worship (with extended hands); intensively, to bemoan (by wringing the hands); to cast (out), (make) confess, praise, shoot, (give) thanks. **We do not want to miss that the biblical intent for giving thanks denotes passion and activity and that is seen in our text.**

"Give thanks to the LORD" ... How do we do that? We obey the commands given in our text.

A. Our first step is to obey the instructive commands in the text.

TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR GIVING THANKS TO THE LORD

- Give thanks to the LORD.
- Call upon his name.
- Make known his deeds among the peoples.
- Sing to him, sing praises to him.
- Tell of all his wondrous works.

- Glory in his holy name.
- Rejoice.
- Seek the Lord and his strength.
- Seek his presence continually.
- Remember the wondrous works that he has done, his miracles and the judgments he uttered.

B. We must give thanks with our whole heart.

- (Psalm 9:1-2 ESV) **I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart**; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds. 2 I will be glad and exult in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.
- (Psalm 111:1 ESV) Praise the LORD! **I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart**, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

2. GIVING THANKS TO THE LORD IS GIVING HIM THE GLORY DUE HIS NAME — "CALL UPON HIS NAME."

- (1 Chronicles 16:29 ESV) Ascribe to the LORD **the glory due his name**; bring an offering and come before him! Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness;
- (Psalm 29:2 ESV) Ascribe to the LORD **the glory due his name**; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.
- (Psalm 96:7-8 ESV) Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, **ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!** 8 **Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name**; bring an offering, and come into his courts!
- (Romans 1:21 AV) Because that, **when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful**; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

EXCURSUS: BEWARE "AND WHEN" ... THE TIMES WHEN THE BLESSING OF GOD TEMPTS US TO TURN OUR HEARTS AWAY FROM THE GOD WHO HAS BLESSED US.

- (Deuteronomy 6:10–12 ESV) **And when** the LORD **[YAHWEH]** your God brings you into the land that he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give you—with great and good cities that you did not build, 11 and houses full of all good things that you did not fill, and cisterns that you did not dig, and vineyards and olive trees that you did not plant—and when you eat and are full, 12 **then take care lest you forget the LORD [YAHWEH]**, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.
- (Deuteronomy 7:2–4 ESV) **And when** the LORD **[YAHWEH]** your God gives them over to you, and you defeat them, then you must devote them to complete destruction. **You shall make no covenant with them** and show no mercy to them. 3 **You shall not intermarry with them**, giving your daughters to their sons or taking their daughters for your sons, 4 **for they would turn away your sons from following me, to serve other gods**. Then the anger of the LORD **[YAHWEH]** would be kindled against you, and he would destroy you quickly.
- (Deuteronomy 8:11–14 ESV) **Take care lest you forget the LORD [YAHWEH] your God** by not keeping his commandments and his rules and his statutes, which I command you today, 12 lest, **when** you have eaten and are full and have built good houses and live in them, 13 **and when** your herds and flocks multiply and your silver and gold is multiplied and all that you have is multiplied, 14 **then your heart be lifted up, and you forget the LORD [YAHWEH] your God**, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

APPLICATION: It is possible to dishonor God in our thanksgiving when we focus more on the blessings he has blessed us with than on God himself. This is not only possible but probable if we do not obey the LORD.

This is one of the great lessons of our text this morning. We are not merely exhorted to give thanks, but we are instructed how to give thanks that honors God as God.

3. WHEN WE DO GIVE THANKS TO YHWH—THE SELF-EXISTENT, ETERNAL, ONE TRUE GOD—WE LIVE IN VIEW OF GOD AND ETERNITY.

- A. Proper “thanks-giving” acknowledges and calls upon the nature and character of YHWH—“call upon his name.”
- B. Giving thanks to YHWH then directs our hearts and minds away from ourselves to things infinite and eternal.
- C. Giving thanks to YHWH gives God credit for who he is and what he has done and maintains and grows our faith.
- D. Our minds and hearts move closer and closer in the direction of God.
- E. Our “faith foundation” grows strong and we believe God more.
- F. Giving thanks to God maintains the right direction and foundation for our heart and mind.

4. GIVING THANKS TO THE LORD—FOR HE IS OUR GOD—IS RESTORATIVE.

- (1 Chronicles 16:8 ESV) Oh give thanks to the LORD; **call upon his name**; make known his deeds among the peoples!
- A. Giving thanks to the LORD is restorative as our hearts and minds are aligned with the will of God.
 - (Romans 12:2 ESV) Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, **that by testing you may discern what is the will of God**, what is good and acceptable and perfect.
 - (1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 ESV) Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 **give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you**.
- B. Giving thanks to the LORD is restorative as it reverses the rebel curse of Romans 1:21 and 2 Timothy 3:7.
 - (Romans 1:21 ESV) For although they knew God, **they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him**, but they became **futile in their thinking**, and their foolish hearts were darkened.
 - (2 Timothy 3:7 ESV) **Always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth**.

Futile means ineffectual; useless; incapable of producing a successful result; pointless. From the Latin ... vanus, empty ... a vain endeavor that is empty of result, or of adequate power to produce a result, a vain pretension; that which is fruitless or profitless and fails

to accomplish any valuable result.

Futile antonyms ... useful, advantageous, beneficial, competent, effective, efficient, expedient, potent, powerful, profitable, real, serviceable, solid, sound, substantial, sufficient, valid, valuable, worthy.

God reverses the curse of sin and darkness as he turns our minds and hearts back to him ... re-calibrates us ... as the Holy Spirit of God transforms us by the renewing of our minds. The LORD [YAHWEH] does his restorative work in our lives as only the Master Craftsman can.

5. GIVING THANKS TO THE LORD—FOR HE IS OUR GOD—AFFIRMS THE TRUTH OF HIS RIGHTEOUS, SOVEREIGN RULE OVER ALL THE EARTH, 16:14-22.

- (1 Chronicles 16:14–22 ESV) **He is the LORD our God; his judgments are in all the earth.** 15 **Remember his covenant forever, the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations,** 16 the covenant that he made with Abraham, his sworn promise to Isaac, 17 which he confirmed to Jacob as a statute, to Israel as an everlasting covenant, 18 saying, “To you I will give the land of Canaan, as your portion for an inheritance.” 19 When you were few in number, of little account, and sojourners in it, 20 wandering from nation to nation, from one kingdom to another people, 21 he allowed no one to oppress them; he rebuked kings on their account, 22 saying, “Touch not my anointed ones, do my prophets no harm!”

- A. The LORD rules—judges—all the earth.
- B. His covenant with his people is forever.
- C. His word and promise endure forever.
- D. He watches over his sojourners.

6. WE ARE TO SING AND GIVE WITNESS DAILY TO HIS SALVATION, 16:23-27.

- (1 Chronicles 16:23–27 ESV) Sing to the Lord, all the earth! Tell of his salvation from day to day. 24 Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples! 25 **For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised,** and he is to be feared above all gods. 26 For all the gods of the

peoples are worthless idols, but the Lord made the heavens. 27 Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and joy are in his place.

- A. We are to daily tell of his salvation.
- B. We are to publicly and broadly declare his glory.
- C. We are to praise him for his greatness.
- D. We are to attest to his holiness above all gods.
- E. We are to proclaim his splendor, majesty, strength and joy.

7. WE ARE TO GIVE THE LORD THE GLORY DUE HIS NAME, 16:28-33.

- (1 Chronicles 16:28–33 ESV) Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, **ascribe to the Lord glory and strength!** 29 **Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;** bring an offering and come before him! **Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness;** 30 **tremble before him,** all the earth; yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved. 31 Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice, and let them say among the nations, “**The Lord reigns!**” 32 Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it! 33 Then shall the trees of the forest sing for joy before the Lord, for he comes to judge the earth.

- A. We are to give the LORD the glory due his name.
- B. We are to worship him in the splendor of holiness and tremble before him.

8. WE ARE TO GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD IN VIEW OF THE TRUTH THAT HE IS GOOD, 16:34.

- (1 Chronicles 16:34 ESV) Oh give thanks to the Lord, **for he is good;** for his steadfast love endures forever!

GOD IS GOOD: The goodness of God is an eternal, undeniable truth, an unending spiritual coordinate which we must set our minds on and live in view of.

When we “give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,” we open our hearts to the work of the Holy Spirit through which he will reveal to us the immeasurable extent of YAHWEH’s love for us which endures forever.