

# Give Thanks to the Lord

(Thanksgiving 2018)

Psalm 136

A. Thanksgiving is a day to remember everything we have comes from God; everything we have belongs to God, and the giver deserves our praise

B. Psalm 136 is the Hebrews' "*Great Psalm of Praise*"

## COMPOSITION (of this Psalm)

A. "Give Thanks" is a call to thoughtful, grateful worship

1. The Psalmist opens by celebrating God's character and sovereignty (136:13)
2. He continues recognizing God is the Creator of the universe (136:4-9)
3. He adds recognition that this God is also their Deliverer (136:10-16)
4. He recognizes that this God is their great Provider (136:17-22)

B. But the Psalmist is not finished. He now adds...

1. 136:23 - "...to the one who remembers us when we are down"
2. 136:24 - "...who rescues us when we are attacked, oppressed, and burdened"
3. 136:25 - "...to the one who takes care of everyone in their time of need"

## CHESED

A. Yes. *CHESED*. It's Hebrew. (One of those untranslatable words)

1. Webster might list love, mercy, kindness, goodness, faithfulness or grace
2. It reminds us of God's endless kindness...designed for us and our care
  - a. With God there is always a new undeserved kindness around the corner
  - b. *CHESED* is an action, not merely a kind thought
3. *CHESED* is the "promise" of God's grace, kindness, mercy
  - a. *CHESED* is honoring your promises - in spite of circumstances
  - b. The promise of kindness was as certain as if it had already been done
4. A significant facet of *CHESED* is covenant faithfulness/fidelity

*"Come, let us return to the Lord; for he has torn us to pieces, but he will heal us; he has injured us, but he will bind up our wounds...for I desire mercy and not sacrifice."* (Hosea 6:1,6)

- a. A covenant is an agreement between a greater party and a lesser party where the greater party sets the conditions...and the penalties

b. God desires *CHESED*, covenant fidelity and models it in his relationships

5. The last meaning of *CHESED* is the basic/theological concept of mercy/love

a. *CHESED* gives us a window into the very essence of God

*"Turn again to the Lord...because of His great chesed we are not consumed...his chesed never fails. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."* (Lamentations 3:22-23)

b. You can never be so distant from God that His mercies can't reach you

B. Whenever *CHESED* is mentioned, the believer's thoughts turn to God

1. Regardless of his circumstances, the believer's heart begins to celebrate
2. The refrain echoes in our heart, mind, mouth, life: *His love endures forever*
3. *CHESED* is the word that focuses all our thanks, giving, and praise

## CONCLUSION

A. Thanksgiving—like *CHESED*—requires an active/physical response

1. The root word is used elsewhere in Scripture as "*something being thrown*"
2. We should take aim and hurl our praises toward heaven...for compared to God's *CHESED*, everything else pales
3. This doesn't change the circumstances...just our perspective and our resolve

B. Keep your eyes on God - for his *CHESED* endures forever!