

# Why Be Thankful?

The Psalms are rich with wonderful truths about God. They reveal God's identity, love, and feelings toward us. They also tell us how to respond to God properly. We should worship Him (Psalm 99), praise Him (Psalm 117), trust Him (Psalm 37), stand in awe of Him (Psalm 34), and be thankful.

Psalm 118 is a song of thanksgiving. It encourages us to be thankful for all of God's blessings. It also tells us why we maintain this attitude.

## **The Goodness of God (Psalm 118:1)**

- The goodness of God is announced throughout the psalms (Psalm 23; 31; 34; 84; 86; 100; 107; 143; 145). Jesus also spoke of God's goodness (Mark 10:18).
- God's goodness is everlasting (Psalm 118:2-4). There is never an occasion when God doesn't love and care for His people.
- God's creation is good (Genesis 1:31).
- God's holiness is good (Psalm 99:9).
- God's righteousness is good (Psalm 145:17).
- God's faithfulness is good (Psalms 40:10).
- God's ability to answer our prayers is good (Psalm 34:15-17).
- God's instructions are His word are good (Psalm 119:18). Adam and Eve failed to believe this (Genesis 3:1-6).

## **The Refuge of God (Psalm 118:8-9)**

- There were six cities of refuge in Israel. These were sanctuary cities where Israelites could go if they killed someone (Joshua 20:7-9). The cities gave them protection from "avengers of blood." Those who the priests determined as guilty of murder were cast out of the city. Those who committed an accidental killing were allowed to remain until the death of the high priest.
- The cities of refuge were symbolic of God's provisions for His people. God provides refuge and protection for His people. Children of God should put their complete trust and confidence in Him and not in "princes."
- Are we seeking refuge in the Lord?

## **The Salvation of God (Psalm 118:14, 22, 26)**

- This psalm has many prophecies about Jesus. Jesus is the salvation of God's people (Psalm 118:4; Acts 4:12). Jesus was rejected by the Jews but became the chief cornerstone of the church (Psalm 118:22; Ephesians 2:20). Jesus was praised as the One who came in the name of the Lord (Psalm 118:26; Matthew 21:9).
- There is no greater blessing we enjoy than the salvation found in Jesus!

## **Conclusion:**

Praise God for His goodness, refuge, and salvation!

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