

**Thanksgiving in August Psalm 9:1-2**

If we can celebrate Christmas in July, then we should be able to celebrate Thanksgiving in August! The question is, would we have anything to celebrate?

If today was our Thanksgiving Eve service, where we share together what we are thankful for this year, would you stand up & share something?

Even with everything that has happened in 2020, do we still have reason to celebrate and to give thanks to God? I hope your/my/our answer is "YES"!

But instead of me giving you reasons why, I want to hear from you!

- I heard some of you singing this morning, but why were you singing? Did you really mean the words you were lifting up in praise to God?
- In my prayer this morning, I invited all of you to say "Amen". Do you know what "Amen" means, & if so, do you really give your full endorsement to that prayer?

"Amen" means agreement, an affirmation of truth, a hearty approval!

- We recited the words to H.C. # 116 that speaks of prayer as our way of showing our thankfulness to God. Is gratitude & thanks to God the focus of your prayer time with Him? If so, what are you thankful for?

There are many Psalms of thanksgiving that we could highlight this morning, but instead I want us to write our own in response to the words of Ps 9:1-2.

The Psalmist declares,

***"I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart;" - Vs. 1a***

What do we have reason to be thankful to God for today?

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***"I will recount all of your wonderful deeds." - Vs. 1b***

What deeds of God, currently in our midst, can we celebrate together?

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***"I will be glad and exult in you;" - Vs. 2a***

What has brought us joy/gladness over these last few months?

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Do we recognize these gifts of God & give Him thanks/praise for them?

***"I will sing praise to your name, O Most High." – Vs. 2b***

Are we as quick to go to God with what we are thankful for as we are to go to Him with the things we desire from Him?

***"Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks!" – Luke 6:45***

What is in abundance in our hearts these days (the last 6 months)?

- Joy or sorrow? Hope or despair? Thanksgiving or Greed? Praise or Disdain?

Take the words you have written & use them as your own personal Psalm of thanksgiving – sing them, pray them, use them to shape your response to 2020!

And read the Thanksgiving Psalms within the Scriptures and allow them to increase your gratitude and fuel your praise of God! Examples: Psalm 136, 117, 100, 139, 42, 56, 23, 27, 37, 145.

If you took the 90 Days in the Psalms challenge, you have already read many of these. It's not too late to start getting into the Psalms every day!

For those who have been reading a Psalm a day, has it made a difference?

If you have been worshipping with us each Sunday during this Psalm series, has it changed your perspective on who God is, on your life, on 2020?

Has today, giving time to express thanks to God together, given you hope?

The Psalms serve as a song book, a prayer guide, an instruction manual or praise, for God's people to use in their relationship & interaction with Him.

No matter what is still instore for the rest of 2020, let Psalm 9:1-2 be your response to it! ***"I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds. I will be glad and exult in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High."***

**Sermon Based Questions to answer BEFORE Sunday's worship service**

**Title: Thanksgiving in August Psalm 9:1-2**

- 1) What do we have reason to be thankful to God for today?
- 2) What deeds of God, currently in our midst, can we celebrate together?
- 3) What has brought us joy/gladness over these last few months?  
Do we recognize these gifts of God & give Him thanks/praise for them?
- 4) Are we as quick to go to God with what we are thankful for as we are to go to Him with the things we desire from Him? Why? Or Why not?
- 5) What is in abundance in your heart these days? Luke 6:45