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Honor Graduate of Royal College
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Box 443 Aurora Phone 86642

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(Lesson for August 7th)
SONGS OF THANKFULNESS

Psalms 92; 103; 136.

Golden Text—It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High. —Psa. 92:1

The Lesson as a Whole
Approach to the Lesson

One of the sins charged against the false professors of the last days is that of unthankfulness (2 Tim. 3:2). Those who know the Lord in reality are exhorted to abound in thanksgiving (Col. 2:7). Gratitude to God for His loving care and His unfailing mercy is one of the evidences of the new life received by faith in Christ. He who enjoys the loving-kindness of the Lord will find his own heart going out to the giver of all good things in thankfulness, as he meditates on all God's wondrous mercies.

Many of the Psalms are expressions of thankfulness and show us how truly saints in an older era recognized their indebtedness to the Lord, not only for spiritual blessings, but for the many temporal blessings so constantly shown upon them. He who has created us for His glory and saved us by His grace delights to give us daily evidences of His Fatherly love and care. We are prone to forget our constant dependence upon Him and to receive these daily benefits without acknowledging their source and remembering that every good and perfect gift cometh down from above, from Him "with whom there is no variableness" nor shadow cast by turning (Jas. 1:17).

Having not withheld His own Son, "how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?" (Rom. 8:32). Surely, in view of all this, our hearts might well cry out in glad response, "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift" (2 Cor. 9:15). And contemplating the marvelous providential care of our Father in Heaven, we should surely give thanks for all things (Eph. 5:20). These Psalms will furnish us with suitable words with which to express the gratitude that wells up in our hearts.

The Historical Setting
Psalm 92 is designated a Psalm to be sung on the Sabbath Day. This is part of the Hebrew text. So it tells us that on the Sabbath the devout in Israel praised God with joyful song, as an expression of their thankfulness for His goodness. Psalm 103 was written by King David, but on what occasion we cannot say. It shows us how his heart went out to God in gratitude as he meditated on the mercies shown to him during a long and oftentimes stormy life.

Verse 1—
Psa. 92:1—"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord." In fact, it would be both ungrateful and unbecoming not to do so. The Lord's goodness toward us demands our grateful praise.

Verse 2—"In the morning....and every night." It is well to establish regular habits for praise and prayer: to begin and close the day with the acknowledgment of God's loving-kindness and faithfulness.

Verse 3—"Upon an instrument." The word rendered "psalms" in Ephesians 5:19 and Colossians 3:16 means literally to sing with instrumental accompaniment. In the old dispensation all kinds of music were dedicated to the service and worship of the Lord. While today the sweetest melody is that which comes from the heart, nevertheless there is nothing in the New Testament to forbid or to discourage the use of musical instruments in connection with the service of song. Every talent may be devoted to the glory of God who gave it.

Verse 4—"Thou, Lord, hast made me glad through thy work." Both creation and redemption are the work of God, and in both He has wrought for the happiness and gladness of His people, who "triumph in the works" of His hands, giving the glory to Him alone.

Verse 5—"Thy thoughts are very deep." We are told elsewhere that God's thoughts are high above ours (Isa. 55:9). It is for us to seek to know His mind by studying His Holy Word. It means much to learn to think God's thoughts after Him.

Psa. 103:1—"All that is within me, bless his holy name." The whole being should be filled with thanksgiving and the desire to give glory to the name of the Lord, whose mercies have been so great on our behalf.

Verse 2—"Forget not all his benefits." It is easy to forget—therefore the importance of immediate recognition of God's goodness and of giving thanks as we recall His abundant mercy.

Verse 3—"Who forgiveth...who healeth." Forgiveness of sins and bodily healing were intimately linked together in the dispensation of Law: When our Lord was on earth He linked the two in connec-

tion with the healing of the paralytic who was let down through the tiled roof by his four friends (Mark 2:4). And in James 5 we find healing and forgiveness going together. This is evidently the will of God when the sickness is the result of sin. But we need to remember that in this age we have no absolute promise that physical healing will invariably follow divine forgiveness. But when God pardons the sinner He always heals the sin-sick soul.

Verse 4—"Who crowneth thee with loving kindness and tender mercies." He who has redeemed our souls is ever mindful of us and continually dealing with us according to the love of His heart.

Verse 5—"Thy youth is renewed like the eagle's." The reference is to the fact that after the moult season the eagle seems to grow young and more vigorous again. So he who finds his satisfaction in the things of God finds his spiritual strength renewed and is soon aware of a new infilling of spiritual energy, even as we read in Isaiah 40:31.

Verse 6—"The Lord executeth righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed." God is never an indifferent spectator of the afflictions of His saints or the sufferings heaped upon them by the enemies of the truth. He will recompense in due time, either in this world or the next.

Verse 7—"His ways...his acts." Moses was taken into God's confidence. To him He made known His ways. He was given to enter into the secret plans and counsels of the Most High. To Israel He made known His acts. They saw what He wrought, but they did not understand the hidden purpose that led to these results. Are we living so close to God that He can make known His ways to us?

Verse 8—"The Lord is merciful and gracious." Judgment is His strange work. He delights in showing



One of the largest log drives in history of the province will be completed next week at Blind River, Ont. A trip of 150 miles down the turbulent

Mississagi river will have been made by half of the 30,000,000 board feet of logs by that time. Over 100 men are braving the tremendous gorges and water-

falls to shepherd the logs. When pile-ups become dangerous (as seen above) charges of dynamite are set to blast the channel clear.

higher than the expanse above is the everlasting mercy of our God.

The Heart of the Lesson
As we dwell upon the goodness of the Lord, we should ever be filled with thankfulness: first, for the gift of His Son, our blessed Lord, and the work He accomplished on the cross for our eternal salvation.

Then, for every good gift so freely lavished upon us, of a material and temporal character, for He "daily loadeth us with benefits."

20,000 CATS . . .

Twenty-thousand cats a year pass through the doors of the Toronto Humane Society.

But it's not only cats and dogs that the Humane Society plays host to. In the month of June alone 15 raccoons were given shelter. Most of them were wild, but Society spokesmen say they were all found within the city limits.

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