

Fostering Gratitude: Our Worldview

(Ps. 118 & Various Texts)

Gratitude

- Gratitude: Thankfulness
 - It is about how we live, not just what we say
- Look at an example of gratitude: Psalm 118

Praise from His People (v. 1-21)

- All of God's people give Him thanks because:
 - We have tasted of His great love (v. 1-4)
 - He is for us (v. 5-7; Rom. 8:31-32)
 - He protects us (v. 8-13)
 - He saves us (v. 14-21)
 - From death (v. 17a)
 - From ourselves (v. 18a)
- Even God's correction is a reason to give thanks

Gratitude Rooted in the Rock (v. 22-29)

- The rejected Stone brings about salvation (v. 22-25; see Matt. 21:42; Mark 12:10; Luke 20:17; Acts 4:11; 1 Pet. 2:7)
- He is from the house of the LORD (v. 26; see Luke 13:35)
- He is the light from God (v. 27a; see John 8:12, 9:5)
- He is our sacrifice (v. 27b; Heb. 10:12)
- This Rock is God (v. 28; Deut. 32:4)
- He is Jesus; and He deserves our thanks (v. 29)

Worldview

- Gratitude is about perspective
 - How we see the world around us
- Seeing God's hand at work in every circumstance (Rom 8:28)

So What?

- When we understand that God is for us
 - Seeing everything through the perspective of the Cross
- Then, we can give thanks in every situation
- Gratitude Challenge

Meditation Verse: *1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

Gratitude Challenge

Write down daily something or someone that you are grateful to God for and tell Him about it in prayer. Maybe you want to share it on Facebook (if you do that sort of thing) or place it on your refrigerator. If you have kids at home, encourage them to join you in this exercise of thanksgiving. Do it every day for the whole month. If you miss a day, ask God to show you two things the next day. May this be a means that God grows our hearts and minds to be more like Jesus.