





**“Oh GIVE THANKS to the LORD,**  
**For he is good,**  
**For his steadfast love**  
**endures forever!”**  
**-Psalm 107:1**

*The beginning of Book 5*  
*Of the Psalms*

For Compass HB  
By Bobby Blakey

Happy Thanksgiving 2022!

My uncle is a spy for the CIA.

At least, this is what I thought when I was growing up.

My uncle always showed up late for Thanksgiving dinner at my Grandpa's house.

I remember he was asked at the table what he did for a living. He said he made commercials. But no one had ever seen these commercials? Well, he said he made them for companies to know what they should do... while traveling all over the world...

Hmm...

I have many good memories of Thanksgiving dinner with the extended Blakey family. My Grandpa Blakey was one of the nicest people I have ever met and welcomed us into his home. It was exciting to see all my aunts and uncles gather together. I remember moving up from "the kid table" to "the adult table." I can still see my Grandma's cranberry sauce jiggling and wondering why it was moving when no one was touching it.

Unfortunately, what I don't remember is the giving of thanks.

Maybe my Dad, or one of my few relatives who is a Christian, prayed before the meal but...

For the Blakeys, like many of our fellow Americans, Thanksgiving was about feasting on turkey, mashed potatoes and stuffing.

Thanksgiving was not about giving thanks to God.

Without God as the centerpiece of these American family meals, the tradition has steadily been in decline.

In fact, Thanksgiving Thursday has been swallowed up by Black Friday.

Apparently, we are more excited about getting things on sale than we are about the grace God is giving to us.

I remember just a few years ago, we were driving home to Huntington Beach from Thanksgiving dinner at my Grandpa's house. Driving on the 405 freeway, I could see the parking lot was full at the Westminster Mall.

When was the parking lot **EVER** full at the Westminster Mall?

How did Thanksgiving become the day to go out shopping for more things?

This year many have a weeklong break for Thanksgiving to rest, travel, visit with family... But how many will actually give thanks?

In this booklet, we will study **Psalms 107** as an example for us.

In 5 simple lessons, we will remember how God has been good this year.

My prayer is this booklet will inspire you not to just celebrate a holiday...

But to celebrate the **Holy One** who has given you everything good you currently enjoy!

**GIVE THANKS with a grateful heart**  
**GIVE THANKS to the Holy One**  
**GIVE THANKS because he's given**  
**Jesus Christ His Son**

# STOP GOING THROUGH THE MOTIONS

“Oh”

This is the first word in **Psalm 107**.

But don't skip over it as you read the rest of the chapter.

I once read a book entitled REVIVAL by a preacher named Martyn Lloyd-Jones. He preached something profound about this little word, something I have not forgotten:

“Somebody once said that a sign, the best sign, of a coming revival is that the word “Oh” begins to enter into the prayers of the people.”

“There is no word that is more expressive of longing than that word... it is the cry of a man at the end of his resources who is waiting, looking for, and longing for God.”

This is the story of **Psalm 107**. People are hungry and thirsty. Their souls are fainting within them (**v5**).

But God satisfies these longing souls. He fills the hungry soul with GOOD things (**v9**).

Are you longing for the goodness of God in your life?

Before you begin your study of **Psalm 107** please take a moment to pray.

Ask the Lord to reveal his goodness to you through this psalm.

**“Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is Good...”**

If you really want to celebrate the Holy One rather than a holiday this year, then you have to stop going through motions. The reason we are giving thanks can't be it is the fourth Thursday in November. The reason we are giving thanks is because God has already been good to us for 11 months this year.

**Thanksgiving is NOT just a day on the calendar.**

**Thanksgiving is when our soul knows God is good.**

**Read Psalm 107.** What is the first thing that stands out to you about this Psalm?

# START SEEING THE GOODNESS

Did you see how **Psalm 107** repeats the same pattern four times?

**Psalm 107:3** says the Lord gathered in his redeemed from the four directions of the compass: east and west, north and south. Then it gives us four examples of how God has been good:

**#1.** Some wandered in the desert (**v4-9**).

**#2.** Some wandered in darkness and in the shadow of death (**v10-16**).

**#3.** Some were fools from their sinful ways (**v17-22**).

**#4.** Some went down to the sea in ships (**v23-32**).

**Read Psalm 107** all the way through for a second time now. What are the two verses that are repeated in all four of these sections of the psalm?

#1.

#2.

The other day I was in a fellowship group where we were sharing promises of God as the basis for our faith (**Romans 4:16**). At one point in the discussion, I was asked, “What is the promise you remember?” Immediately a Scripture came to mind. It was like remembering an old friend:

**“I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.**

**Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!” ~Psalm 27:13-14**

You may have a problem seeing God’s goodness if you are only looking for it in the present.

Oftentimes we doubt God’s goodness to us because we are not feeling it right now. But God’s steadfast love endures forever! He has been good to us in the past. He is going to be good to us again in the future. His goodness is not going anywhere even if we are not currently aware it’s there.

According to the promise of **Psalm 27:13**, you can look forward to seeing God’s goodness in the future. You can wait for it by faith today. If you take a moment, you can even remember times he has been good to you and see them in a fresh way. What are four ways God answered your prayers or rescued you from distress so far this year?

#1.

#2.

#3.

#4.

# BEHOLD THE WONDROUS WORKS

Here are 4 ways I saw the goodness of the LORD this last year at Compass HB:

**#1. When Ryan Pierce wrote the song I Need A Rescue.** Does anyone remember our study of the end of The Book Of Acts when we did the sermon Ship In a Bottle? During this time, Ryan and I had a conversation about how “rescue” is a regular experience in the Christian life. We ask God to “rescue” us from temptation on a daily basis (Matthew 6:13). We trust God will “deliver” us from every evil and bring us safely home to his heavenly kingdom (2 Timothy 4:17-18). This is the same type of rescue or deliverance from the Lord that is mentioned four times in **Psalm 107: 6, 13, 19 & 28.**

RYAN “CHRIST LOVING” PIERCE took this conversation and turned it into a worship song. We started the service with it on Easter Sunday. He even recorded the song and you can listen to it on Spotify, Apple Music or even YouTube. Just search: I Need A Rescue Compass HB.

**#2. When souls were saved!** As we approach each season on the calendar, I ask the Lord to save more souls. As I write this, I can recall specific people who have professed repentance and faith last Christmas, Easter, Summer and Fall. Some while listening to the sermons. Some while attending special events. You might have seen some get baptized! As I remember these praise reports I ponder all the angels rejoicing up yonder! Please join me in praying for God to save more souls this winter season as we celebrate Jesus this Christmas!

**#3. When Pastor Josh Petras joined us!** For a year and a half we prayed for Pastors & Parking Spaces! And now Josh is here! Seeing him on a daily basis is a reminder of God’s goodness!

**#4. When over \$2 Million Dollars was given to the Double Double Project in one week!** I knew we were going to need to see some generosity to begin construction on an 800 seat auditorium... But God, this was a wondrous work to behold!

**“Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love,  
for his wondrous works to the children of man!”**

This verse is repeated four times in **Psalm 107: 8, 15, 21 & 31**. When we see the wondrously wonderful way God is working, then we will give thanks from the heart.

**Psalm 75:1** is another cross reference with this same idea. We will give thanks when we recount God’s wondrous deeds.

**Read Psalm 106, Psalm 118 & Psalm 136** which all begin with the same exact verse as Psalm 107:1. In fact, Psalm 107 seems to be the answer to the prayer at the end of Psalm 106. Psalm 118 is a famous prophecy of Jesus and will remind us of our salvation. Jesus is the stone who was rejected but has become the cornerstone, the foundation of our lives. The day we can rejoice and be glad in is our current day of our salvation. Psalm 136 goes through a history of God’s goodness to Israel and repeats the refrain FOR HIS STEADFAST LOVE ENDURES FOREVER with each line.

**Write out your own prayer to give thanks to the Lord.** Please don’t just say it, but actually write it down. You can write by hand or type on your phone, laptop or computer. But just like these psalms we are reading, let it be written. Start by recounting the wondrous works of the Lord this last year. See his goodness to you. Then let your heart express an appropriate response to the wonder of what God has done.

Let the Amen sound from his people again.

# WHY I WRITE

**Psalm 107** is a great example of why I write things down. Every day I try to type out a prayer. Every week I take notes on the sermon from God's Word (Yes, even if I am not the one preaching!) The reason I write is I want to remember how God answers me from heaven when I pray to him here in Huntington Beach! I want to remember how God spoke to us when we opened up his Word in the congregation of his people! The Lord of heaven and earth is communicating with us and I don't want to miss a word!

**Psalm 107** is taking us through four answered prayers, four things God did in response to his people. If you don't remember what you prayed and how God answered you, this may put you at a disadvantage when it comes to giving thanks. If you do journal or record your prayers, I recommend going through them again. You will immediately see reasons to give thanks.

**#1. Psalm 107:7** describes God leading them in a straight way and putting them in a city to dwell in. How has God made straight your paths this year? Who has God given you to fellowship with?

**#2. Psalm 107:14** says God brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death. Is there any sin God convicted you of and forgave you for this year? Is there any way he delivered you from death or is bringing you through the grief of losing a loved one?

**#3. Psalm 107:20** says God sent out his word. Is there a sermon you heard this year that made a change in your life? Is there a chapter of Scripture you read that turned you away from sin or brought healing to your soul?

**#4. Psalm 107:29** says God made the storm be still and hushed the waves of the sea. Was there any trial in your life this year that God is bringing you safely through? Was there any peace God gave you in the midst of difficult circumstances?

Write out your answers to these questions. Keep them somewhere you will remember. Perhaps this is the beginning of a new Thanksgiving tradition for you. Our American holiday is traditionally spent in the kitchen, preparing for the Thanksgiving feast. But what if we spent time in the secret place with the Lord, preparing our hearts to respond to his goodness with a genuine giving of thanks? What if you kept this booklet and brought it out year after year, answering all these questions all over again. Maybe there is more to his goodness than we can just remember in our heads. That's why I write it down.

# DO YOU STUDY IN TOUNGES?

When you read the Bible, do you ever go back to the original language of the text? This may be difficult for everyone to do, which is why I try to include it in my sermons. There are some tools that can help you like Logos software or even a free website like Blue Letter Bible. The most helpful thing for me is to see what other verses in Scripture use the same Hebrew or Greek word.

**Psalm 107** begins Book 5 of the Hebrew Hymnal we know as The Psalms. It has some very common Hebrew words you may be familiar with. Whenever you read the word LORD in capital letters this is the name for God “Yahweh.” **Read Psalm 107** one last time: How many times do you see the name “Yahweh” mentioned and what is God doing each time?

The word for “**good**” in Hebrew is “Tov.” Whenever I go to Israel, I try to use this word a lot. “Boker tov” is Good Morning. I am sure I sound like a tourist when I say it! “Tov” is used over 550 times in the Hebrew Bible. **Look up Psalms 16:2, 23:6, 25:8, 34:8-10, 73:1&28, 84:10-11, 86:5, 100:5, and 103:5.** Write down how God is good from these verses.

The word for **“steadfast love”** in Hebrew is “Hesed.” This word speaks of God’s promise to his people, of how he makes a covenant with us. **Look up Psalm 5:7, 6:4, 13:5, 25:6-10, 36:5-10, 42:8, 57:3, 59:16-17, 63:3, 77:8, 85:7-10, 90:14, 92:2, 94:18, 101:1 and 103:11.** Write down how God loves from these verses.

The word for **“wondrous works”** or “wonders” in Hebrew is “Pala.” **Look up Psalm 9:1, 26:7, 40:5, 78:4&11, and 96:3.** Write down what we are supposed to do with God’s wonders.

The most important thing I read in high school was the Psalms. I wrote down a list of all the attributes of God I found. I even wrote down a list of verses for each attribute. I did this without any cross-references or digital tools, just me and my Bible. This is how I began to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. I pray this little Give Thanks booklet has helped you see it too. If you see the goodness of the Lord, you will give thanks to him no matter what day of the year it is. Yahweh is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!