

**October 4, 2009**  
**"THANKSGIVING", *Daily Disciple*, page 286**



### **Psalm 106:48**

"Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel,  
from everlasting to everlasting.  
Let all the people say, "Amen!"  
Praise the LORD."

#### **MEDITATION**

"As the poor use entreaties, so the poor in spirit, sensible of their wants, are often at the throne using entreaties, and making fervent prayer for grace. They are a thankful people; for they, feeling their unworthiness, and that all they receive is of free favor, feel obligations unknown to any other character. How humble his heart in the presence of his God!" (Barton W. Stone, *Christian Messenger*, 1835, page 73).

#### **SCRIPTURE**

- <sup>34</sup> Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;  
his love endures forever.
- <sup>35</sup> Cry out, "Save us, O God our Savior;  
gather us and deliver us from the nations,  
that we may give thanks to your holy name,  
that we may glory in your praise."
- <sup>36</sup> Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel,  
from everlasting to everlasting.  
Then all the people said "Amen" and "Praise the LORD."

(1 Chronicles 16:34-36)

#### **PRAYER**

"God, giver of life and all good things, I thank you for your steadfast love. I bless your holy name! Amen. Praise the Lord!

## Digging Deeper: Finding out, discussion and sharing

1. Read all of [Psalm 106](#) and answer the following questions:
  - a. How does this Psalm begin?
  - b. How are God's goodness and love connected to thanksgiving?
  - c. Make a list of all the things the Psalmist mentions that he is thankful for out of this chapter.
  - d. Are you thankful today for some of the same things?
2. Barton W. Stone, in his meditation above, has an interesting take and perspective on thankfulness. .
  - a. It sounds like he is saying that poor are more grateful for what they have. Is this really true? Can we learn anything from the poor?
  - b. Upon what basis does Stone indicate that the poor are grateful?
  - c. How or in what sense is humility a part of thankfulness?
3. Colossians 3:15 describes the fundamental position that the Christian takes toward thankfulness. What connection is there between peace and thankfulness?
4. Gratitude and thankfulness are key biblical themes in the New Testament. 39 times the verb "to be thankful" is used, and 16 times the noun "thankfulness" is used. Because of limitation of time, your small group cannot cover all of these. However, look up the following passages and share what you learn about thankfulness from them. Can you think of parallel situations in our life today where these might apply?
  - a. Ephesians 5:20
  - b. Acts 27:35
  - c. Romans 1:8
  - d. Matthew 15:36
5. Read 1 Chronicles 16:34-36.
  - a. Interestingly, this is part of a psalm found in 1 Chronicles. Read the entire psalm, verses 7-36.
  - b. For what is David thankful?
  - c. How can this be a model for us to follow today in our lives of gratitude?
6. Psalm 106:1 and 1 Chronicles 16:34 read the same. What is there about these verses that are inherent in composing a Psalm? Why are they important in both settings?
7. For a great example of how thanksgiving can frame a Psalm and set the context for its themes, look at Psalm 136. What do you learn about thanksgiving from this Psalm?
8. God is indeed the giver of life and all good things. Share with your group reasons why are thankful for God as the giver of life.
9. In what ways have you seen God be the giver of all good things in your life? Do you think you express thankfulness enough in prayer life to God?
10. Let's think now about your group.
  - a. What are things you are thankful for that you can attribute to God's abundant love and care?
  - b. In what ways has your group made itself receptive to hear the thankfulness and gratitude of the poor?
  - c. Would you say overall that your group is a "thankful" group?
  - d. How did you become that way, and how do you think God wants you to express that to others?

