

Thanksgiving: A Shield and a Sword

- ¹ Oh come, let us sing to the LORD!
Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation.
- ² Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving;
Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.
- ³ For the LORD is the great God,
And the great King above all gods.
- ⁴ In His hand are the deep places of the earth;
The heights of the hills are His also.
- ⁵ The sea is His, for He made it;
And His hands formed the dry land.
- ⁶ Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.
- ⁷ For He is our God,
And we are the people of His pasture,
And the sheep of His hand.
- Today, if you will hear His voice:
- ⁸ "Do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion,
As in the day of trial in the wilderness,
- ⁹ When your fathers tested Me;
They tried Me, though they saw My work.
- ¹⁰ For forty years I was grieved with that generation,
And said, 'It is a people who go astray in their hearts,
And they do not know My ways.'
- ¹¹ So I swore in My wrath,
'They shall not enter My rest.'"

► In addition to the national holiday we will celebrate this week, this Sunday marks the close of the Christian year according to the church calendar, and it is set apart as Christ the _____ Sunday.

Psalm 92:1 - "It is good to give thanks to the LORD..."

► Scripture's constant refrain to give thanks is for our own _____.

► Giving thanks...

1. Protects us from _____.
2. Protects us from _____ hearts.
3. Creates both internal and external _____.
4. Sanctifies the _____.

Exodus 17:7 - So Moses **called the name of the place Massah and Meribah**, because of the contention of the children of Israel, and because **they tempted the LORD**, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

► Exodus 14 recounts Israel's _____ through the Red Sea and God's destruction of Pharaoh and his army. Chapter 15 recounts the Song of Moses, in which he leads all of Israel in a song of Thanksgiving and praise for God's great work of _____.

Exodus 16:2 - Then the whole congregation of the children of Israel **grumbled** against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. And the children of Israel said to them, "Oh, that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and when we ate bread to the full! For you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

Exodus 17:1-2 - Then all the congregation of the children of Israel set out on their journey from the Wilderness of Sin, according to the commandment of the Lord, and camped in Rephidim; but there was no water for the people to drink. Therefore the people **quarreled** with Moses, and said, "Give us water, that we may drink."

► Psalm 95 summarizes this whole episode by saying that what Israel was doing during this whole episode was _____ their hearts.

Deuteronomy 6:4-16 "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. And these words which I command you today **shall be in your heart**. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall **bind them as a sign** on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall **write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates**. So it shall be, when the Lord your God brings you into the land of which He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give you large and beautiful cities which you did not build, houses full of all good things, which you did not fill, hewn-out wells which you did not dig, vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant—**when you have eaten and are full— then beware, lest you forget the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage**. You shall fear the Lord your God and serve Him, and shall take oaths in His name. You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are all around you (for the Lord your God is a jealous God among you), lest the anger of the Lord your God be aroused against you and destroy you from the face of the earth. **"You shall not tempt the Lord your God as you tempted Him in Massah.**

► The process of hardening one's own heart begins with _____, which causes quarreling, which leads to testing the Lord and finally results in _____.

► Giving thanks is our great _____ against idolatry and hard hearts.

► The first offensive attack we make with the sword of thanksgiving is against _____ and strife.

*Colossians 3:15-17 - And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. **And be thankful.** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, **with thankfulness in your hearts** to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, **giving thanks** to God the Father through him.*

*Leviticus 7:11-12 - 'This is the law of the sacrifice of peace offerings which he shall offer to the LORD: If he offers it for a **thanksgiving**, then he shall offer, with the sacrifice of thanksgiving, unleavened cakes mixed with oil, unleavened wafers anointed with oil, or cakes of blended flour mixed with oil.*

*Leviticus 7:15 - 'The flesh of the sacrifice of his peace offering for thanksgiving shall be eaten the same day it is offered. **He shall not leave any of it until morning.** But if the sacrifice of his offering is a vow or a voluntary offering, it shall be eaten the same day that he offers his sacrifice; but on the next day the remainder of it also may be eaten...'"*

*Exodus 16:19 - And Moses said, "**Let no one leave any of [the manna] till morning.**"*

► The internal _____ of the soul, the peace that surpasses all understanding, is also a product of giving thanks.

*Philippians 4:6-7 - Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, **with thanksgiving**, let your requests be made known to God; and **the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds** through Christ Jesus.*

► The second of the offensive blows we land against sin, death, and Satan, as we wield the sword of thanksgiving is the flip side of _____.

*Romans 1:21-25 - Although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, **nor were thankful**, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and **worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator**, who is blessed forever. Amen.*

► We are to _____ the world, to set everything in it apart for God's glorious purposes.

*1 Timothy 4:4-5 - For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is **received with thanksgiving, for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.***

► Thanksgiving stands at the very _____ of our existence simply as humans and even more so as Christians.

*Exodus 17:5 - And the LORD said to Moses, "Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. **Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock** at Horeb, and **you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink.**"*

► The Rock is going to stand on the rock at Horeb and be struck, so that Moses is not _____ with rocks.

*1 Corinthians 10:1-4 - For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. **For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ.***

► APPLICATIONS

1. Make a resolution to set apart time every _____ to remember, recount, and give thanks.