

Give Thanks

Psalm 116

Craig Smith • November 18, 2018

Introduction: a declaration of loyal love...

I love the LORD, for He heard my voice; He heard my cry for mercy. Because He turned His ear to me, I will call on Him as long as I live. (Psalm 116:1-2)

- **The personal crisis: pain in the face of death** – “The cords of death entangled me, the anguish of the grave came upon me; I was overcome by trouble and sorrow.” (v. 3)
- **The spiritual counter: faith in the practice of prayer** – “Then I called on the name of the LORD: ‘Oh LORD, save me!’ The LORD is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion.” (vv. 4-5)
- **The cause for thanksgiving: God’s deliverance and care** – “The LORD protects the simplehearted; when I was in great need, He saved me. Be at rest once more, O my soul, for the LORD has been good to you. For you, O LORD, have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling, that I may walk before the LORD in the land of the living. I believed; therefore I said, ‘I am greatly afflicted.’” (vv. 6-10)

It is written: “I believed; therefore I have spoken.” With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you in His presence. (2 Cor. 4:13-14)

A grateful heart can’t help but respond...

How can I repay the LORD for all His goodness to me? (v. 12)

- **With trust and obedience** – “I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD. I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all His people.” (vv. 13-14)

Then He took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.” (Matt. 26:27-28)

- **With surrender and service** – “Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints. O LORD, truly I am your servant; I am your servant, the son of your maidservant, you have freed me from my chains.” (vv. 15-16)

I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all His people, in the courts of the house of the LORD – in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the LORD. (vv. 18-19)