

A TIME OF REFLECTION

[Pastor Gene Henderson edited by Pastor Pier]

War is a curse to the human species. We hate it. We wish to avoid it whenever we can. But there are times in America's history that we went to war. 1776, 1861, 1917, 1942, 2001 are a few dates America went to war. But it was not 100%. There were always those who disagreed and who said so, but the vast majority of the population followed the guidance of our leaders. **Wars are not perfect.** We know that, and that is why we negotiate. **We compromise our desires to avoid bullets and bombs.** But sometimes the moment, the attack, the injury – like Hamas's terroristic attack on the Israelis in Gaza – cannot be suffered. **It must be answered.** Israel is doing that, and very few doubt they will succeed.

That is what happened in Joshua's time. Professors and casual readers alike who call Israel's conquest of Canaan an unjust war, **need to pull back and see from God's perspective.** The world does not belong to Israel. The world does not belong to America or China or Russia. **The world belongs to God,** and He gave strict instructions to Joshua: **"Go into Canaan and clean out the land. Do not negotiate. Destroy."** Why? The tribes and cities in Canaan were guilty of terrible behavior under the guise of following their false gods. The One True God of Heaven said, **"Enough. The land has vomited them out. Clean house. Completely. If you do, you will be blessed. If not, you will be cursed."** That's the short version of God's instruction to Joshua. A lot is said about God's command to destroy the Canaanites. For three main reasons, idolatry, the offering of their children as sacrifices to the gods (abortion) and homosexuality.

As long as Israel followed Joshua's direction, they succeeded. When they thought they knew better... well, then the war did not stop. Israel proved (and America followed Israel's example) that you can be successful and still have disruption that eventually leads to dissolution. Caleb took the hill country where the Nephilim lived and cleaned it out. **THAT is how powerful God is!** God's people don't co-habit with the wicked and receive His blessings. It isn't about religion. It's about morals. Paul quoting from Isaiah 52:11 in 2 Corinthians 6:17 (NLT):

Therefore, "Come out from among them and be separate," says the Lord. "Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you."

Happy Thanksgiving

November 19th, 2023



"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so they can have life. I want them to have it in the fullest possible way."

SERVICES

Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30 AM
Unity in Prayer & Youth: 6:00 – 7:00 PM
Wednesday – Bible Study: 7:00 PM; Kid's Club
Prayer ½ hour before services

SERMON NOTES

THANKSGIVING LIFE STYLE

TEXT: Psalm 118:1

God wants nothing more than for us to be people of _____ and _____.

I. A THANKFUL LIFE STYLE _____ Us

A. Why do you think being a thankful person is so _____?

Philippians 4:4

B. _____ are you thankful for?

II. A THANKFUL LIFE STYLE _____ OUR _____

A. Happy People _____ Others 1 Peter 2:11-12

B. _____ a life of thankfulness will attract the lost.

III. A THANKFUL LIFE STYLE WILL IMPROVE _____

A. _____ Relationships

B. _____ Relationships

1. Church in Rome – Romans 1:8
2. Church in Corinth – 1 Corinthians 1:4
3. Church in Ephesus – Ephesians 1:15-16
4. Church in Philippi – Philippians 1:3
5. Church in Colossi – Colossians 1:3

IV. A THANKFUL LIFE STYLE _____ OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

A grateful life style is the _____ of a grateful heart and attitude. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Remember that _____ we have is from God. Psalm 24:1; 77:3; 1 Corinthians 4:7; James 1:17; Philippians 2:12-16; Ephesians 5:18-21

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Wednesday Bible Study – we will continue our study of John 17. Our children will enjoy Kid's Club in the basement.

Flagging Class – there will be no flagging this Wednesday due to Thanksgiving celebrations. For more information, please see Debbie DeVries.

Shoebox Gift – **this Sunday**, November 19 we will be delivering our boxes to the site where we are to take them. Please have your boxes here so we can deliver them this afternoon. Thank you for your care and love for the lost.

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