

“Who Should Give Thanks?”

By Brother Parrish Lee

Sunday, November 3rd, 2013

Ah, what kind of God do we serve? Loving and comforting... Everything you could ask for, and far beyond. He is that and more. He is the one that looks at the angels, and charges them with power. Angels! They make movies about those guys, and they don't even understand it, and they make movies about how powerful the angels are. God sits up there and charges them, and the stars... We send up all these probes out into space; we want to see how big it is and how bright it is, and how powerful, and how many planets are out there. He looks at the stars, and they are not pure in His sight. That same One loved us so much that He gave His only begotten son to come and die for our sins. He loved us that much! He loved us by the each, and He knows us by name. You got to love a God like that.

Giving honor to God, Who is the head of our lives. That compassionate, wonderful, redeeming, omnipotent and omniscient God. The One who omnipresence is everywhere and who is omniscient; Who knows everything, Who is aware of everything... Giving honor to Him Who has never seen a failure. Who knows how to minister to us every day, all day long, even in our sleep; He knows what we need. When we done gave up and are looking forward to the next day, He is still ministering to us. Giving honor to Him. Giving honor in this ministry to our founding pastor all the way to our bishop, right now, who is also our pastor. Their labor, their families, and all the ones in between who have labored and put their lives on to answer the call that God has called them. Giving honor to all of us here who wanted to come and be in the presence of the great God in Heaven; the One who loves us so much. Giving honor to you.

We have completed our sixty-one days; our time of sanctification and our prayer is that it has been a blessing for everybody. It, of course, was completed on Thursday. I like what Bob Heitzler said—Bob sent Andy and myself a text, “Man, this time of sanctification was great! I'm looking forward to the fruits of sanctification!” Well, amen.

Today's message, we're actually going to be cutting it in half, and the first half is going to be a little bit of a commentary on the time of sanctification, followed by this month's theme, which is going to be, “Giving Thanks.”

During this time of sanctification, we had many people share about the blessings that they received, and its not about telling each other about your blessings (tell God about your blessings) but, when you share your blessings, then other people can get nourishment from your blessings, and they say, “Wow, they got a blessing; I can get a blessing.”

2 Chronicles 31:1 *Now when all this was finished, all Israel that were present went out to the cities of Judah, and brake the images in pieces, and cut down the groves, and threw down the high places and the altars out of all Judah and Benjamin, in Ephraim also and Manasseh, until they had utterly destroyed them all. Then all the children of Israel returned, every man to his possession, into their own cities.*

Bow your heads for just a moment. Lord, we thank you so much, and who is likened unto You, our Lord and Savior? So wonderful, so comforting, God, You span everything. Our little minds can't even fathom it. We just come before You and we thank You, and we praise You, and we worship You, Almighty God. We revere unto you, and we ask that You would give

unto us at this time in the reading and the speaking of Your Word. Lord, we ask, as You have said in Your Word, that it would not return unto You void, but that it would do exactly what You have sent it to do, to accomplish its task. We thank You and present ourselves to you as we pray this in Jesus' name, and everyone said, "Amen."

We just read from 2 Chronicles 31, and this whole chapter talks about a time when the King was Hezekiah, and all of Israel had come before God. Hezekiah wanted to bring the people back to God. Some of my favorite readings are in first and second Chronicles and first and second Kings. Love them to death. It talks about so many different situations, but, here, Hezekiah is starting to set things up. It says that when all Israel was present, they went out and brake the images in pieces. So, the first thing we wanted to mention is that, when you go to get closer to God, the first thing you've got to do is to make a decision. If this is what you want to do, the first thing you need to do is to decide, "Hey, I want to draw closer to God." If you don't decide that, you're going to quit half-way through. You're going to miss out on your blessing. You've got to have a made-up mind, okay? The second thing that you've got to do is to move the things that are in the way. Now, here, it talks specifically about idolatry. They were removing the idols, but, let's face it, this is 2013, we don't have to go to a high place or a field or anything to find an idol and say, "We're going to tear you down." Let's face it, we've got plenty of things that are trying to get in between us and our God that need to be removed. So, this is what they were doing; they were moving those things out of the way.

2 Chronicles 31:2 *And Hezekiah appointed the courses of the priests and the Levites after their courses, every man according to his service, the priests and Levites for burnt offerings and for peace offerings, to minister, and to give thanks, and to praise in the gates of the tents of the LORD.*

Did you see that? They went where to give thanks and to praise? In the gates of the tents of the LORD. "I will enter His gates with thanksgiving in my heart. I will enter His courts with praise. I will say this..." He appointed them their portion. You say, "Well, that was just for the priests and the Levites." According to Peter, we are what the Bible calls a chosen generation, a peculiar people, and, what? a royal priesthood (1 Peter 2:9), so this Scripture applies to us. We are given our portion when we take that time and sanctify ourselves before the Lord.

2 Chronicles 31:3 *He appointed also the king's portion of his substance for the burnt offerings, to wit, for the morning and evening burnt offerings, and the burnt offerings for the Sabbaths, and for the new moons, and for the set feasts, as it is written in the law of the LORD.*

So the first portion was for the priests and the Levites and everybody who was going to minister. This was specifically for those that received blessings, for them to be able to have blessings in their testimonies, and also to have blessings in their homes and in their walk and in everything that they went to do. Of course, that means for us today; we're going to have blessings for what we're going to accomplish for and with God. I like verse three, because verse three talks about the king, he had to pony up, too. He had to ante up. He wasn't excused, but he had to be held accountable for the sacrifice that he had to bring. In fact, the king had to bring more than everybody else because he had to set the testimony, he had to set the standard. So many times today, we have people that want to be exempt from a law that they made everybody else follow. We don't want to talk about politics, but, if we were going to talk about politics, we

have some people in the church that are government workers and they got put on something called a “sequester,” and they didn’t get paid for a while, but the people that made that law, the Congressmen and Senators, they didn’t lose a dime! “That’s just not fair!” I agree. If you’re going to be part of the system, if you’re going to lead, then lead by example. That’s enough of that.

2 Chronicles 31:4 *Moreover he commanded the people that dwelt in Jerusalem to give the portion of the priests and the Levites, that they might be encouraged in the law of the LORD.*

So that they might be encouraged! That’s why we bring our—and don’t mind that we’re talking about tithes and offerings. “Oh, they want my money; they want my money; they want my money!” Absolutely! You have to bring your tithes and offerings to the Lord, but, it you can’t stop there. You have to bring your prayers, you have to bring your thoughts, you have to bring the Spirit of God, that’s in you, into the realm of God’s people. You have to; you have to. It encourages you, yes, but it also encourages your brothers and your sisters! It encourages the young, and it encourages the old! It encourages the males and the females! It needs to be brought in to encourage all of them that dwell within.

2 Chronicles 31:5 *And as soon as the commandment came abroad, the children of Israel brought in abundance the firstfruits of corn, wine, and oil, and honey, and of all the increase of the field; and the tithe of all things brought they in abundantly.*

So they brought all this in, in abundance. We didn’t have a place for you to see all the things that people brought in for rededication. We didn’t have a place for you to see them physically. Could you feel an outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the unity of people’s lives, even today? Kirk, I disagree with you about one thing: Yeah, I thank the system for having an extra hour of sleep, but that didn’t have a lot to do with the blessing that God poured out on us today. People were making themselves ready. When you raise your expectation before God; when you raise it, and you prepare yourself, and you make yourself ready, then the blessing gets poured out in abundance.

2 Chronicles 31:8-9 *And when Hezekiah and the princes came and saw the heaps, they blessed the LORD, and his people Israel. Then Hezekiah questioned with the priests and the Levites concerning the heaps.*

There were heaps of blessings, because the people said, we’re just going to take this time and present ourselves before the Lord. There were heaps, and so much so, that when Hezekiah and his entourage saw it, they went over to the priests, and they said, “What’s all this? What is all that?”

2 Chronicles 31:10 *And Azariah the chief priest of the house of Zadok answered him, and said, Since the people began to bring the offerings into the house of the LORD, we have had enough to eat, and have left plenty: for the LORD hath blessed his people; and that which is left is this great store.*

“What is all this, oh great king? What is it? Since the people have turned around, and started bringing blessings into the house, everybody has had enough to eat! In fact, not only have we been able to sustain ourselves—“ and, don’t limit yourself to sustaining yourself, because, when the prayers go in, and the offerings, and the good fellowship; good fellowship, it doesn’t just last for that immediate time—when I get good fellowship, it lasts me all week. People wonder, “What got into Parrish?” “Hey, you know what? a brother or sister shared something with me! I can’t hold it! I know you’re not interested in hearing about it, but you’re going to hear it anyway!” When we bring these blessings into the house, not only is there an abundance, but it goes to everybody. So, that which is left, is in great store. “I got so much that it’s going to hold me over—yes, I’m going to ask God for some stuff tomorrow—but I got so much today, I got to share it!”

2 Chronicles 31:14-15 *And Kore the son of Imnah the Levite, the porter toward the east, was over the freewill offerings of God, to distribute the oblations of the LORD, and the most holy things. And next him were Eden, and Miniamin, and Jeshua, and Shemaiah, Amariah, and Shecaniah, in the cities of the priests, in their set office, to give to their brethren by courses, as well to the great as to the small:*

To the great and to the small.

2 Chronicles 31:18 *And to the genealogy of all their little ones, their wives, and their sons, and their daughters, through all the congregation: for in their set office they sanctified themselves in holiness:*

You’ve got to love this verse. If I were a child, I would love it. If I were a woman, I’d love it, because, so often, the Bible doesn’t mention so much about the wives. Sometimes it doesn’t mention so much about the kids, because it’s understood. They didn’t have such a problem back then, but today, you do have a problem. I’ve had so many people tell me, “Hey, the Bible only talks about the men, the men, the men, the men...” We’ve got to change that mentality. But, here, it specifically says, “And to the genealogy of all their little ones, their wives, and their sons, and their daughters, through all the congregation: ... they sanctified themselves...” So, this blessing, that was so abundant that people had to ask questions about it, was for everybody; yeah, the little ones, too. They brought in an offering so great, so immense, that people were asking, “What is all that?”

2 Chronicles 31:20-21 *And thus did Hezekiah throughout all Judah, and wrought that which was good and right and truth before the LORD his God. And in every work that he began in the service of the house of God, and in the law, and in the commandments, to seek his God, he did it with all his heart, and prospered.*

So, why take out that time? Let’s face it saints, we do it as God lays it on our heart, but this was a time that we could do it as a family. “And in every work that he began in the service of the house of God, and in the law, and in the commandments, to seek his God, he did *it* with all his heart, and...” Why did he do it? Why? because he prospered. Now that word, prospered, yes, it means to profit, and it means to benefit, yes, but it also means to break out. This word also means to come mightily. I also means to go over. To break out, yeah, to be delivered. To go

over, yeah, to be victorious, and to get deliverance. This ‘prosper,’ yeah, you were going to have some things coming into you, but you were also going to have some internal things going on, and you were also going to have some physical things going on.

So, that’s a wrap-up from the Book of Second Chronicles 31, verses 1 through 18: Time of Sanctification as a family, epilogue.

So, it was verse 2, there, “And Hezekiah appointed the courses of the priests and the Levites after their courses, every man according to his service, the priests and Levites for burnt offerings and for peace offerings, to minister, and to give thanks...” And, to give thanks, which is hat we’re going to talk about now, giving thanks.

So, we had a time of sanctification, or preparation, or however you want to say it. Now we’re going to talk about giving thanks. We’re going to start with our Scripture theme for the month:

Ephesians 5:20 *Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;*

Giving thanks. Now, the Bible gives us a viewpoint on what role thankfulness plays in our Christian walk. You know, when you are thankful, you are reminded, you are put in remembrance. You remember something that somebody did, and that’s because you’ve received something. That goes along with the remembrance. So, we thank God, and that makes us remember what he has done for us. You thank God for salvation, because you remember what it was like when you were not saved; let me correct that: when *we* were not saved. We thank God for His Word, because we remember when we had confusion, and when we didn’t know the answers, and we were looking for them, and we were kind of hoping that we could get them, shoe how, some way... we thank God for His Spirit because we remember a time when we didn’t have the focus, and the direction, and the guidance, and the comfort, and His dwelling with us.

Let’s take just a thought here, now, I’ve hard people say, “I don’t need to thank God for *everything*, because a lot of things I have done for myself.” I’ve actually heard that. The point is, that God, when we come and bring thank offerings and praise to God, does that *really* do so much for God? Or, does it really do so much for us? We learn that when we thank God and we remember, God always remembers what He’s done for us. We get put into remembrance, “Oh, before I go too far, I haven’t thanked Him... Hmmm.” That reminded me of a quick story: There was this lady, and she decided that everything was going wrong. “Before I became Christian, I didn’t have all of these problems. Since I became a Christian, it seems like people turn their back on you they talk about you; they gossip... They shut you off, shut you down; they don’t help you out sometimes. I’m just going to leave off of this, but before I do, I’m just going to tell God thank you for the things that He’s done for me, just to clear the table right out.” So, she started out, and she said, “God, I thank You for my children, and I thank You for that time I was sick and You helped me out. God, I thank You for, when I needed some understanding, I thank You for shoring up a relationship that I needed for a while. I thank You for, when people that were evil, and they were talking bout me, God, You delivered me from that. God, I want to thank You for the last however many years that You’ve been good to me. I just can’t take the heat, but You’ve been good to me, over and over and over.” The story goes on, and it says that in the midst of her thanking God, she had to say, “Wait a minute! Wait a

minute! I can't leave God, He's been too good to me! The other people can go on their way, but God has been good to me."

So, when we are put into remembrance, when we thank God, it is for us to remember what God has done for us—not that God needed anything, but that *we* needed that remembrance. So many of us, we're taught to be thankful, you know, when you're young; your parents know that, if you're not a thankful person, you're going to turn out to be a certain type of person. They don't want you to be like that, because they have learned from their parents, who taught them, who have learned from their parents, who have taught them, "We want you to learn to be thankful, because we know what you turn out to be when you're not."

We're going to talk about four people here right quick. The first person is going to be David:

Psalms 107:1 O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.

There's actually eight places that David says this (1 Chronicles 16:34, Psalms 106:1, Psalms 107:1, Psalms 118:1, Psalms 118:29, Psalms 136). I had to look it up, because all the Psalms aren't written by David; this one is. All the other ones where it says, "O give thanks unto the LORD, for *he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.*" It also talks about it in Chronicles. David said this over and over and over again, giving thanks unto God. Now, when we talk about David, we know his testimony. He was a shepherd boy. He was the boy that just kept the little flock. His dad called him a ruddy youth. I mean, you know, "What's going to really become of him?" David knew what he was, too. He knew that when the prophet came to his house, that his dad put all his brothers up before him (1 Samuel 16:1-13). David also knew that, after he was anointed, he had some battles. David knew he was on the run. David also knew that he got strengthened. He also knew that he had wars. He also knew that he went down and he slew Goliath with one rock. One rock. One. One stone. One. He slew him when the whole nation of Israel was afraid of this guy. He knew that. He also knew that when they brought the Ark of the Covenant back into the camp, he danced with all his might. He also knew that when he went into the house, and they made up all the offerings, the Spirit of the Lord came down mightily that nobody could go in there. David, in his testimony, knew this in his life; he knew this in his walk with God. You could say that David knew that this path that God brought him was for him to know specifically everything that God had done for him. I need to say that again: David knew that this path that God brought him was for him to know everything that God did for him.

Next, we're going to talk a little bit about Solomon.

1 Kings 3:5-10 *In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night: and God said, Ask what I shall give thee. And Solomon said, Thou hast shewed unto thy servant David my father great mercy, according as he walked before thee in truth, and in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with thee; and thou hast kept for him this great kindness, that thou hast given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day. And now, O LORD my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David my father: and I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in. And thy servant is in the midst of thy people which thou hast chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered nor counted for multitude. Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people? And the speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing.*

What a humble prayer! If we were to read on, we'd see that the Lord answered and said, "Because you haven't asked for your enemies to be destroyed, because you haven't asked for long life for yourself, because you haven't asked for great riches, I will grant it. Because you weren't thinking about you, I will answer this. This request pleased the Lord. Solomon made sure that it wasn't about him. He wanted to see the people get blessed. He humbled himself to say, "I am but a little child and I don't even know my own coming in or going out. I'm turning this all over to You, Lord." There are times when—well, let's say this first: So, we have the two people here. We have David, who knew the path that God brought him through, the wars, the fighting, the time he had to face Goliath, the time he had to run from Saul. He knew that he had to be on his guard, that somebody wouldn't kill him and try to take him to the king to get that reward. He knew what it was like. He even knew what it was like when they didn't have the Spirit of God, and he knew what it was like when it came back. David knew that. The Bible talks about how he danced before the Lord with all his might. But, like any good parent, you want your kids to have something better than you. You want them to be blessed. I have heard many parents say, "I don't want them to go through what I had to go through. I don't want them to be subjected to what I was subjected to. I don't want them to suffer like I had to suffer. I want my kids, I want my children, my son, my daughter, I want them to make it further than me." So, Solomon, he wasn't born taking care of the sheep and the cattle and all. Solomon was born in the palace. He was born in the king's house, so he started off with a bit of an advantage. So, David, knowing the path that God had brought him through, had to be more thankful; he knew what it took to get those things. Solomon, in his great wisdom—the Bible talks about his great wisdom, that there was no man likened unto him; people came from all around just because of the wisdom that he asked God for and God granted it to him—even though he was wise, he didn't know the cost. He didn't know the ins and the outs and the sufferings and the hidings and the wars and the sweat and the fighting; he was born in the palace. He kind of had a jump on that. He couldn't appreciate it enough, because he hadn't gone through that path enough. I'm not giving him an excuse, because he knew that God had given him some such things. But, let's talk about us: why do we go through so many things that we go through? It's to make us appreciate it when God delivers us! It's to make us know, "I didn't have this before, so how did I get it? God gave it to me, and to Him belongs all the praise and the glory." That's why.

There's two specific things about coming before God. We come before God when we have a request, right? We lay out our request, "God, we want you to answer this." We come before God because we have a request, we have a need. There's something that we want God to do for us. And then there are times when we go before God because we just love Him, because you just want to bless God. We just want that relationship going. I spoke with a married person, and they told me—this was some time ago—they told me, "Parrish, I'll tell you something: If you want to be married, if you want to have a successful marriage, one of the things that you've got to be bale to do, is you've got to be bale to minister to the needs. You got to be able to listen to them. You know? If they need something, you've got to help them out. If they're always needing something, and you're not helping them, then, well, so much for that marriage." And I'm like, "Well, I guess you're right, I don't know, I guess you're right." He said, "One thing is, you've got to remember special things like birthdays and anniversaries and special dates. You got to make sure that you remember them. If you forget them enough, then they're going to start wondering how much does it really mean to you." He said, "There's another thing that you've got to do." I said, "It sounds like a lot already. You better not tell me that you have to share your food, because someplace you've got to draw the line." He said, "No, there are times when

you've got to make something special. You've got to have like a date night. You've got to go on a week-end together; you've got to go on vacation together. You've got to set some special things aside. Nothing really great, but you've got to make some special times when you spend time together." Well, that makes sense, kind of. I didn't hear you say nothing about sharing, so... That goes along with what were talking about. There's times when you want to bring things before the Lord, because you've got a need, and there's times when you want to come before the Lord just because you love Him. This was a man I was talking to. A few of the women told me you want to keep the love flowing. You've got to keep the home fires burning, so to speak. That's the same thing with us, because we are the bride, we want to keep that love flowing. We want to keep that home fire—Heaven is my home, *that* fire—we want to keep it fresh in our minds.

The third person I want to bring up, from the Book of Genesis, is Adam.

Genesis 2:7 *And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.*

We talk about Adam, a little bit here and a little bit there, but, when you think about it, how must Adam have been? Talk about the perfect guy, you know? Somebody asked me one time, "If you were in a room full of people, and Adam was in the room, how can you tell it was Adam?" No belly button. Out of all the things about Adam, that's what you're going to be able to tell. I do believe that if Adam were in the room, we would all know it. Lets just start here: He was the one that was formed from the dust of the earth. God especially made him right off of the bat. He was the one that named all of the animals. He walked with God in the cool of the day. This guy, that God started off with, yeah, this guy was awesome. God put Adam in a place where there was no pollution; He put him in a place where there were no storms, there was no sickness, no pain, there was no thorns on bushes, no rotten fruit, you know. He put him in that world. Adam's perspective had to be awesome. You might say, "Well, what did Adam have to be thankful for? No pollution, no sickness; he never knew about those things, he never saw those things. He wasn't delivered; he was never exposed!" There was one thing that Adam knew. You know what Adam knew? He knew that, "Yesterday, I was dust; I was dirt in the ground. Yesterday, I was nothing! Yesterday, I didn't have eyes in my head to be able to see. Yesterday, I didn't have a mouth to speak, and to eat; I didn't have legs to walk. Yesterday, I didn't have arms to raise up. Yesterday, I didn't have a heart beating in my chest. I didn't have brain in my head. I didn't have a head! Yesterday, I didn't know what love was. Yesterday, I didn't know about that Spirit of God, walking with me in the cool of the day, but today, I know! I can be thankful for that. That's Adam. So Adam was to say, "Why shouldn't I praise God, and thank Him who has given me all of this?"

The next one we're going to go to, and this is number four:

Luke 17:12-19 *And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off: And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan. And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten*

cleansed? but where are the nine? There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger. And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.

I saw this documentary on TCM, and it was taking place in France, in, I don't know, forties and fifties, and it had the colony of lepers. They went right down there into them, and they showed how some of them didn't have noses, some of them didn't have eyelids, some of them didn't have ears, some of them didn't have fingers, and some of them didn't have feet. That disease doesn't care about what it affects, what it tears off. It goes after all your extremities. That really highlighted this scripture for me so much more. So, the plight of a leper is dire. You have to keep away from everybody. You really can only associate with other lepers. What are you going to do for a job? How are you going to have a family? You're a leper, you're not going to be having those things. Your situation is dire. You're relying on charity. That's your situation. I know some people have said that they've been to a leper hospital before; I can't imagine. I'm bringing the point home. We know the story, as they were going to the priests, they were healed, all ten of them. One of them turned back, to thank God. Why? Jesus told him to go to the priests. Why did he turn back? The Bible says that he turned back and glorified God. The Lord said, **"Were not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? Where are they? They are not to be found, save this stranger."** Why did this stranger—you know what this leper knew? If you think about it, he had been a leper for a while. It's not like you're a leper for a day or two, and then it's gone. If you've been a leper for a while, then you know it's bad. He had, no doubt, been to, or sent somebody to, the priests before and he was still a leper. But, this time, on the way to the priests, he got healed, and he turned back to The Priest. He recognized who the real priest was, and he turned back, and thanked Him. The Bible says that he glorified God, not just thanked God, but he glorified God. Now, there was a reason for that. You know, you can say thank you, and it could almost be a reflex. "Hey,, pass me the salt," and they pass you the salt, "Hey, thanks for that." I drop my piece of paper, and somebody picks it up, "Hey, thank for that." It could almost be a reflex, you know? I remember a time, I was going somewhere, and a local law enforcement officer pulled me over and asked for a donation. I was able to accommodate, and he gave me a receipt. When he gave me the receipt, yes I did, I said, "Thank you." It was just a reflex. I needed to be cured of that reflex. But, this return answer went far beyond a reflexive thank you, he glorified God. He not only thanked Him, he glorified God, and, in glorifying God, now, thanking Him was part of that, but, also, he praised Him and he worshipped Him. He turned back to the Lord, and he worshipped Him. That was his thank you.

There is one last person we want to talk about here, and that is this person called Parrish. Now, he really has a reason to be thankful. I've shared my testimony several times. Knowing what God has done for me; all the components that went into making me what I am right now... I know what I was delivered from, but I want to say something right quick, I had somebody tell me, "You know, I hear so many other people's testimonies, and, you know, I wasn't really a *bad* sinner... Some of them, they were really bad." I've heard that, and that's a very dangerous statement. It's a dangerous thought process, because the Bible says that you begin to compare yourselves with yourselves... The Bible says that they are not wise. The Bible says that they that compare themselves with themselves are not wise. If you continue in that course, then you would think that there are bad sinners, and there are good sinners, and the next course is that you think, "Well, I didn't need God as much as them." Some of the things that you shared, Bob, I might think, "Well, at least I didn't do as much as Bob did; Bob was really bad." He shared. I

haven't told you about mine, and I'm not going to. But, I could fall into that trap. I know this for a fact: It doesn't matter. It doesn't matter if he was a murderer. It doesn't matter if you burned down houses. It doesn't matter if you're a liar. It doesn't matter if you're an adulterer. It doesn't matter if you're a whoremonger. It does not matter if you were a thief. It does not matter what your sins were; I know for a fact that I needed to be saved by God. What difference would it make if a few sinners are on the North side of Hell, and a few more are on the West side of Hell, and a few others are on the South side of Hell? Hell is Hell. If you're burning in the Lake of Fire, its still hot. I'm just saying. I know this: That my Lord was wounded for my transgressions, and He was bruised for my iniquities—our iniquities (Isaiah 53:5). Surely he bore our sorrows, and in the valley, He restores my soul.

My final comment: We all have some David in us. We all have some Solomon in us. We all have some Adam in us. Yes, we all have some of that ten lepers in us. This is why the Bible is so great. So who should give thanks? Everybody. Amen.

