

Psalm 18:1-19, 46-50
The Origin of Thankfulness
Jonathan M. Romig

Jonathan Romig gave this sermon at Immanuel Church on 1/18/2015. Immanuel Church is the parent church of Cornerstone Congregational Church.

Immanuel: <http://www.immanuelchurch.com/>

Cornerstone: <http://www.cornerstonewestford.com/>

*See next page for preaching outline.

Introduction:

1. Have you ever given someone a gift and that person threw your gift away? (baby blue sweater)
2. I confess that I'm that person—the person who has a pile for Saver's. (contrast Monica)
3. Sometimes we treat God the same way—he gives us gifts we throw away.
4. God gives us all sorts of things we don't want—patience, brokenness, and humility.
5. How can we cultivate a heart attitude of thankfulness to God?

(Today we're looking at a Psalm of Thanksgiving composed by King David.)

(King David had finally defeated King Saul and was at the height of his power.)

I. Thankfulness to God begins with thankfulness for God. (v. 1-3)

A. Real thankfulness begins with gratitude to God. (Intro/Title)

1. David not only sang about God, he sang directly to God.
2. The author David wrote Psalm after Psalm that addressed God directly.
 - a) Psalm 15:1 "O Lord, who shall sojourn in your tent?..."
 - b) Psalm 16:1 "Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge."
 - c) Psalm 17:1 "Hear a just cause, O Lord; attend to my cry!"
3. We can put this into practice by praying to God as if he's there instead of praying about God.
4. It would be weird for me to say to Dana, "I ask that Dana would let me win at basketball."

B. Real thankfulness begins with love for God. (v. 1-3)

1. The Psalms were collected from Moses to after the exile (1300-500BC).
2. V. 1 doesn't appear in David's original song in 2 Samuel 22, but was added for public worship.
3. Word for love (rahm, not hesed) is rare and expresses intimacy (womb/maiden, mercy/comp.).
4. God wants us to love him for who he is (rock, fortress, refuge, worthy).

C. I am more thankful for Monica's gifts than white elephant gifts.

1. I am way more grateful for Monica's knitwear than the dirty flower-pot I got in a gift swap.
2. Our love for God helps us appreciate what God gives us.
3. We can show God our gratitude by spending time with him (Bible, prayer).
4. If you don't love God, you're going to have a "vending-machine" faith.

(How do we become thankful for God?)

II. Thankfulness for God comes from needing God. (v. 4-6)

A. Thankfulness for God comes from needing God. (v. 4-6)

1. King David had several near-death experiences because of King Saul (plot, spear, pursue).
2. In v. 6 When David says he cries "to him" he's saying he cries "to his face."
3. David's cries for help come into the very presence of God and God "ears" hear him.
4. God hears are cries for help in our most difficult circumstances.
5. When you lose your job, your loved ones, your joy—God hears! (Rajiv Paluri - NVSA)

(Thankfulness to God begins with thankfulness for God.)

(Thankfulness for God comes from needing God.)

(What are we thankful for? Three things:)

III. First, we are thankful for God's power. (v. 7-15)

A. First, we are thankful for God's power. (v. 7-15)

1. God has power over everything (v. 7 earth; v. 9 heavens; v. 15 sea.)
2. If we were to read verses 25-45, we would see God's power over people.
3. The false god Baal defeated sea, chaos, and death, but our God defeats all of these and Baal.
4. God uses his power to judge his enemies. (v. 8 smoke from nose; v. 9 came down; thick darkness)
5. When our cries come before God's face, God gets angry! (v. 6 "my cry to his face.")
6. God uses his power to protect his people. (v. 11 God hides himself for us. Suk-kah: covering/hut)

B. When the elk give birth in Estes Park, they have to block off the sidewalk.

1. Some of you are "momma-bear"s who occasionally bring out your claws for your kids.
2. There's nothing more comforting than knowing God gets angry on our behalf.
3. When we get to heaven, maybe God will give us a glimpse of all the ways he's protected us.

(What does God do with all this power? This leads us to what we're thankful for next.)

IV. Second, we are thankful for God's love. (v. 16-19)

A. Second, we are thankful for God's love. (v. 16-19)

1. In v. 16 God shows us his love by drawing us out of the water (symbol of chaos/death).
2. God brought the people of Israel through the Red Sea to the promised land, a "broad place."
3. God rescues us because he "delights" in us. (personal affection, belovedness, pleasure.)

B. Did you know that drowning doesn't look like drowning?

1. A boating safety [website](#) shared this story:

The new captain jumped from the deck, fully dressed, and sprinted through the water. A former lifeguard, he kept his eyes on his victim as he headed straight for the couple swimming between their anchored sportfisher and the beach. "I think he thinks you're drowning," the husband said to his wife. They had been splashing each other and she had screamed but now they were just standing, neck-deep on the sand bar. "We're fine, what is he doing?" she asked, a little annoyed. "We're fine!" the husband yelled, waving him off, but his captain kept swimming hard. "Move!" he barked as he sprinted between the stunned owners. Directly behind them, not ten feet away, their nine-year-old daughter was drowning. Safely above the surface in the arms of the captain, she burst into tears, "Daddy!"

2. Drowning is a "deceptively quiet event" where people don't wave, splash, and yell like on TV.
3. When you drown, you can't breathe, can't speak, can't kick, and can't wave (climbing ladder).
4. Maybe you're here this morning and you feel like you've fallen into the deep end.
5. The captain of heaven who is the most attentive Father loves you and can save you.

(How does God love you? This is our final reason to be thankful for.)

V. Third, we are thankful for God's salvation. (v. 46-50)

- A. In v. 46 David proclaims "The Lord lives" or "Yahweh lives!"
- B. The false god Baal was said to perish and revive in his battles ("Baal lives, Baal is dead!").
- C. Our God "delivers" (v. 48) the "nations" (v. 49) to "salvation" (v. 50) through Christ Jesus.
- D. Paul explains Psalm 18:49 in Romans 15:8-9 points to Jesus saving anyone, Jew or Gentile.

Romans 15:8-9 (NIV) — 8 For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, so that the promises made to the patriarchs might be confirmed 9 and, moreover, that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written: "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will sing the praises of your name."

- E. The "anointed of David" who will have God's favor "forever" is Jesus Christ.
- F. Our number one reason to be thankful is the salvation we have in Christ (gospel).
- G. V. 20-25 tell us King David knew what it was to be forgiven by God—righteous.

Conclusion:

1. Sometimes it's hard to be thankful.
2. Followers of Jesus should be marked by thankfulness.
3. We are thankful for God's power, love, and salvation.
4. Most importantly we are thankful for God himself—thankful for Jesus.
5. Thankfulness to God begins with thankfulness for God.

Prayer & Solomon's Benediction: 1 Kings 8:59-60 (NASB) "And may these words of mine, with which I have made supplication before the Lord, be near to the Lord our God day and night, that he may maintain the cause of His servant and the cause of His people Israel, as each day requires, so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the Lord is God; there is no one else."