

Wednesday Word Meditation Material #35 (November 25, 2020)

OrderPrayer → Praise → Scripture → Understanding Scripture → Meditation on Grace → Prayer → Lord's Prayer

- ❖ **Prayer** – One of the family members or Individual
- ❖ **Praise** – If possible, Hymns 306 & 312 are to be sung. If not, please sing any good Christian song
- ❖ **Scripture Reading** – Psalm 100:1~5
- ❖ **Understanding Scripture** (*Thanksgiving for being Possessed*)
 1. The original Bible in Hebrew, the first two words are “Thanksgiving Psalm” not as a title but as a content in verse 1. That means that this psalm is wholly written for giving thanks to God. Verses 1~2 and 4 are the imperatives for thanksgiving and praise. Verses 3 and 5 are the reason for them.
 2. The writer requests and suggests Israel to “make a joyful noise to the LORD” who should receive the thanksgiving. The joyful noise is the joyful cry. In that mood, verse 2 tells us, “serve the LORD with gladness!” Then, it commands Israel, “come into his presence with singing!” All of these describe the mode of thanksgiving to God.
 3. Then, in verse 3, the writer commands Israel to know “that the LORD, he is God!” There are many gods in the world. The writer wants to consecrate God from them with the unique name, YHWH (LORD in ESV). Then, he explains the YHWH God, saying “It is he who made us” so “we (Israel) are his.” Then, he adds, “we are his people” and “the sheep of his pasture.” Here we can feel secure.
 4. Based on verse 3, the writer commands again in verse 4, saying “Enter his gates with thanksgiving.” In addition, he commands, “(enter) his courts with praise!” Then, he adds, in that place, “Give thanks to him” and “bless his name!”
 5. **There is a conjunction, “because,” at the beginning of verse 5.** The reason why Israel should give thanks to YHWH God in this way is that He is good. When God is good here, the followings show the reason. First of all, the “steadfast love” of God “endures forever.” Secondly, God’s “faithfulness to all generations.” These two different expressions, “endures forever” and “to all generations,” are same meaning: eternity. The steadfast love means God’s obligation. The faithfulness means God’s unchanging firmness.
 6. **In a nutshell, the reason for this kind of enthusiastic thanksgiving and praise to YHWH God is that God chose Israel as His people, became their “God” who obligates and keeps them, made them His own possession and His sheep.** This work has been fulfilled through Jesus’ cross and resurrection. We, who are united with Christ with the faith in Christ, became God’s possession as Israel did in the text. **This “being possessed” is the reason for thanksgiving in 2020 as well as the content of our deep meditation.**
- ❖ **Meditation on Grace**
 1. What do you have in your mind, complaint or thanksgiving, in our life with COVID-19 in year 2020?
 2. As the writer of this psalm suggested and commanded, in fact, the more important reason for our thanksgiving, which is different from tangible reasons, is the fact that we, the weak, by God’s grace, have been united with Jesus Christ and become “God’s possession.” The being possessed is to be kept by God’s obligation and unchanging firmness.
 3. Why don’t we rely on God, with thanksgiving and prayer, who keeps His salvation for us?
- ❖ **Prayer** – Praying with the meditation and finishing with the Lord’s Prayer.