

What Shall I Render?

Psalms 116:12 “WHAT SHALL I RENDER UNTO THE LORD *for* ALL HIS BENEFITS TOWARD ME?”

The Psalmist is meditating upon the richness of God’s blessings, realizing just how much that God has given him. We must realize that His blessings are endless and without number, if we spent the rest of this day we probably couldn’t name or think of all of them. We will consider just three:

First of all we could consider life itself, that we are a living, breathing being with a spirit that is eternal:

Genesis 1:26 ” AND GOD SAID, LET US MAKE MAN IN OUR IMAGE, AFTER OUR LIKENESS: AND LET THEM HAVE DOMINION OVER THE FISH OF THE SEA, AND OVER THE FOWL OF THE AIR, AND OVER THE CATTLE, AND OVER ALL THE EARTH, AND OVER EVERY CREEPING THING THAT CREEPETH UPON THE EARTH.”

Secondly let us consider that he gave us everything that is required to sustain our lives on this earth:

Genesis 1:29-30 “AND GOD SAID, BEHOLD, I HAVE GIVEN YOU EVERY HERB BEARING SEED, WHICH *is* UPON THE FACE OF ALL THE EARTH, AND EVERY TREE, IN THE WHICH *is* THE FRUIT OF A TREE YIELDING SEED; TO YOU IT SHALL BE FOR MEAT. ³⁰AND TO EVERY BEAST OF THE EARTH, AND TO EVERY FOWL OF THE AIR, AND TO EVERY THING THAT CREEPETH UPON THE EARTH, WHEREIN *there is* LIFE, *I have given* EVERY GREEN HERB FOR MEAT: AND IT WAS SO.

Third; when mankind allowed Satan to overcome the commandment that God had given him and brought sin into the world God gave us a remedy that will sustain our souls throughout eternity:

John 3:16 “FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD, THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, THAT WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH, BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE.”

Romans 5:8-9 “BUT GOD COMMENDETH HIS LOVE TOWARD US, IN THAT, WHILE WE WERE YET SINNERS, CHRIST DIED FOR US. ⁹MUCH MORE THEN, BEING NOW JUSTIFIED BY HIS BLOOD, WE SHALL BE SAVED FROM WRATH THROUGH HIM.”

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So as the Psalmist asks how could we ever repay God for all of the rich blessings that he has given us? What can we render to God in exchange for all of these benefits that we enjoy? Then he gave us examples that we can apply to our lives today just as he applied them to his life:

First he pledged his love:

Psalms 116:1 “I LOVE THE **LORD**, BECAUSE HE HATH HEARD MY VOICE **and** MY SUPPLICATIONS.”

We are to render our love to Him, not only because of all the tremendous blessings that he has given us but also because He requires our love. In the Law given through Moses he told the Israelite nation:

Deuteronomy 6:5 “AND THOU SHALT LOVE THE LORD THY GOD WITH ALL THINE HEART, AND WITH ALL THY SOUL, AND WITH ALL THY MIGHT.”

In His teaching on this earth the Son of God reminds us that this love is to be continuous and eternal. When asked by the lawyer which was the greatest commandment he replied:

Matthew 22:36-37 “MASTER, WHICH *is* THE GREAT COMMANDMENT IN THE LAW? ³⁷JESUS SAID UNTO HIM, THOU SHALT LOVE THE LORD THY GOD WITH ALL THY HEART, AND WITH ALL THY SOUL, AND WITH ALL THY MIND.”

Secondly he understood his dependence upon God and pledged to call upon him in prayer:

Psalms 116:2 “BECAUSE HE HATH INCLINED HIS EAR UNTO ME, THEREFORE WILL I CALL UPON *him* AS LONG AS I LIVE.”

Prayer is the way that we communicate with God. Without prayer in our lives we cannot render anything to God because we're not on speaking terms with Him. In scripture our prayers are compared to the sweet smelling incense that was offered to God on the altars of the Jewish temple. This symbolism is used in Revelation to help us understand what our prayers mean to God:

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Revelation 8:3-4 “AND ANOTHER ANGEL CAME AND STOOD AT THE ALTAR, HAVING A GOLDEN CENSER; AND THERE WAS GIVEN UNTO HIM MUCH INCENSE, THAT HE SHOULD OFFER IT WITH THE PRAYERS OF ALL SAINTS UPON THE GOLDEN ALTAR WHICH WAS BEFORE THE THRONE.
⁴AND THE SMOKE OF THE INCENSE, WHICH CAME WITH THE PRAYERS OF THE SAINTS, ASCENDED UP BEFORE GOD OUT OF THE ANGEL'S HAND.”

Third the Psalmist would be a faithful servant:

Psalms 116:16 “O LORD, TRULY I *am* THY SERVANT; I *am* THY SERVANT, *and* THE SON OF THINE HANDMAID: THOU HAST LOOSED MY BONDS.”

God's purpose for placing us on this earth is to serve him. Solomon writing with the wisdom God gave him tells us:

“LET US HEAR THE CONCLUSION OF THE WHOLE MATTER: FEAR GOD, AND KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS: FOR THIS IS THE WHOLE DUTY OF MAN.” **Ecclesiastes 12:13**

Solomon writes of the vanity of seeking after worldly things, the corruption of worldly wealth, the fickle nature of all of the things of this world that men spend their entire lives pursuing and accumulating. We all have an appointment that we will not miss:

Hebrews 9:27 “AND AS IT IS APPOINTED UNTO MEN ONCE TO DIE, BUT AFTER THIS THE JUDGMENT.”

We must live a life that will assure us that when we keep that final appointment that we will be rewarded. In His parable of the talents Jesus teaches us what we can expect if we are His faithful servants. Not once but twice, to emphasize the joy of serving God He reminds us of the words that we want to hear when we stand before the judgment seat:

Matthew 25:23 “HIS LORD SAID UNTO HIM, WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT; THOU HAST BEEN FAITHFUL OVER A FEW THINGS, I WILL MAKE THEE RULER OVER MANY THINGS: ENTER THOU INTO THE JOY OF THY LORD.”

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But in order to hear those beautiful words, we must indeed be a child of God, we must be a citizen of God's kingdom. We must do as the Psalmist tells us:

Psalms 116:13 "I WILL TAKE THE CUP OF SALVATION, AND CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE **LORD**."

So how do we take "THE CUP OF SALVATION"? First of all we must believe that in God:

Hebrews 11:6 "BUT WITHOUT FAITH *it is* IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE *him*: FOR HE THAT COMETH TO GOD MUST BELIEVE *that* HE IS, AND THAT HE IS A REWARDER OF THEM THAT DILIGENTLY SEEK HIM."

We must repent of our past sins, turn from them, quit doing them. As Paul told the Athenians; man's ignorance of God and the will of God is not acceptable:

Acts 17:30-31 "AND THE TIMES OF THIS IGNORANCE GOD WINKED AT; BUT NOW COMMANDETH ALL MEN EVERY WHERE TO REPENT:
³¹BECAUSE HE HATH APPOINTED A DAY, IN THE WHICH HE WILL JUDGE THE WORLD IN RIGHTEOUSNESS BY *that* MAN WHOM HE HATH ORDAINED; *whereof* HE HATH GIVEN ASSURANCE UNTO ALL *men*, IN THAT HE HATH RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD."

We must, both by our words and by our lives confess that Jesus Christ is the Son of God:

Romans 10:10 "FOR WITH THE HEART MAN BELIEVETH UNTO RIGHTEOUSNESS; AND WITH THE MOUTH CONFESSION IS MADE UNTO SALVATION."

But we're not done yet. On the road to Damascus Saul learned to believe that Jesus Christ was the Son of God, he confessed His name when he called him Lord (**Acts 9:5**). He repented, fasted and prayed fervently to God for three days and nights when the preacher Ananias was sent by God to give him further instruction:

Acts 22:16 "AND NOW WHY TARRIEST THOU? ARISE, AND BE BAPTIZED, AND WASH AWAY THY SINS, CALLING ON THE NAME OF THE LORD."

Then and only then would Saul be worthy to "CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD", then and only then will we be ready to "RENDER UNTO THE LORD" for all of the benefits and blessings which he has given us.