

**CALL TO THANKSGIVING  
THANKSGIVING – PART 1 OF 2  
PSALM 136:1-3**

**PRAISE THE LORD FOR HIS GOODNESS**

1. The refrain is not **vain** repetition: “His **mercy** endures forever.”
2. Every particular **favor** from God **deserves** that we take notice of God’s mercy.
3. This amazing truth concerning God is **sung** in triumph (2 Chron. 5:13; 20:21-22).

**KEY THOUGHT:** Our duty is to offer the sacrifice of **praise** continually, not the fruit of the ground or cattle, but the fruit of our **lips**, giving thanks to His name (Heb. 13:15).

**I. THE GOODNESS OF GOD (PS. 136:1)**

- A. The Lord is “**good**”.
  1. In the Bible, “good” is considered as happiness, pleasure, knowledge and there is **no good** apart from **God**.
  2. No one can know “the good” unless he knows God as **Lord** and **Savior** (Mark 10:18).
  3. It is the “goodness” and righteousness of **Christ** that overcomes the **destruction** of sin (Rom. 5:15-17).
- B. Give thanks to the Lord **because** He is “good”.
  1. The theme of this psalm is God’s mercy being as **vast** and unlimited as the depth of the **sea** (Ps. 136:4-9).
  2. The character and **mercy** of God demands our thanks and **praise** (Ezra 3:11; Ps. 7:17; 9:1).

**KEY THOUGHT:** The brightest rays of God’s mercy **blazed** during the darkness of Jesus’ crucifixion when Jesus said from the cross, “Father, **forgive** them; for they know not what they **do**” (Luke 23:34).

## II. THE GENTLENESS OF GOD (PS. 136:2-3)

### A. His Deity (Ps. 136:2)

1. God is merciful because He is God, and His nature is to be merciful (Deut. 7:7-8).
2. God is adored by the angels of heaven; He allows world leaders to govern, and it is by His power that all the false teachers will fall (Col. 2:8-15).

### B. His Dominion (Ps. 136:3)

1. All power in heaven and earth is the Lord God's (Ps. 136:3).
2. Thanksgiving begins with a sense of surrender to God and a celebration of His absolute authority (Matt. 6:9-13).

**KEY THOUGHT:** Keep your eyes and thoughts upward to our God and King (Ps. 136:26).

**FOR FURTHER STUDY AND PERSONAL GROWTH**

**November 20, 2011**

**SUNDAY:** **“His mercy endures forever” (Ps. 136:1-3)!** Praise the Lord for His goodness! Psalm 136 has a wonderful, worshipful refrain. The refrain is not vain repetition, far from it. “His mercy endures forever.” The lovingkindness of the Lord fills our lives and that of every Christian. Every particular favor from God deserves that we take notice of God’s mercy. Singing praises to the Lord God’s mercy is the call to thanksgiving. This amazing truth concerning God is sung in triumph (2 Chron. 5:13; 20:21-22). God’s mercy is abundantly present in our lives. Our duty is to offer the sacrifice of praise continually, not the fruit of the ground or cattle, but the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name (Heb. 13:15). Pause and think of how many times God has poured His mercy over your life. Think about the particular blessings and magnificent grace with which He has covered your life. Thank Him through praise and thanksgiving. ***May your lips continually utter praises of thanksgiving to the Lord God!***

**MONDAY:** **Know the “goodness” of the Lord (Mark 10:18)!** The Lord is “good.” In the Bible, “good” is considered as happiness, pleasure, knowledge, and there is no good apart from God. In fact, no one can know “the good” unless he knows God as Lord and Savior (Mark 10:18). Jesus challenged the rich young ruler to think through the assertions attached to the title of “good.” The implication is that only God is intrinsically good. Was this young man asserting the deity of Jesus? Jesus did not deny His deity. Rather, His framed response would indicate that Jesus affirmed it. It is the “goodness” and righteousness of Christ that overcomes the destruction of sin (Rom. 5:15-17). This passage in Romans addresses the general obedience of Christ more than one specific event. Do you know the “goodness” of the Lord? Stop and pause to consider the goodness of the Lord – happiness, pleasure, and knowledge. Everything you possess in life as a Christian comes from God. ***May the realization of God’s “goodness” make Him more real to you than ever before!***

**TUESDAY:** **God’s mercy is vast (Ps. 136:4-9)!** Give thanks to the Lord because He is “good”. The theme of this Psalm is God’s mercy being as vast and unlimited as the depth of the sea (Ps. 136:4-9). When the Psalm was written, the depth of the sea was unfathomable, but today that is not the case. For us the vastness of space would be a more appropriate metaphor. God’s mercy is ever expanding. The character and mercy of God demands our thanks and praise (Ezra 3:11; Ps. 7:17; 9:1). Ezra reports how Israel sang responsively the praises of our God, “His mercy endures forever.” As you pray today, praise the Lord for the mercy He has showered on your life. Reflect on the vastness of the Lord’s mercy and its inexhaustible depth. ***May the time you invest thinking and reflecting on the Lord’s mercy deepen your gratitude for His loving embrace in your life!***

**WEDNESDAY:** ***Jesus' mercy is perfect proof of His "goodness" (Luke 23:34)!*** The brightest rays of God's mercy blaze during the darkness of Jesus' crucifixion when Jesus said from the cross, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34). The depth of compassion the Savior had for the men responsible for His crucifixion demonstrated His divine nature. Those responsible for Jesus' death on the cross possessed no comprehension of the scope of His life and ministry on earth. Yet, their ignorance in no way indicated they deserved forgiveness. Jesus' prayer for their forgiveness while He was being mocked and crucified was a divine expression of boundless compassion and endless grace. Pray for the strength to allow the "goodness" of your Savior to be expressed through your life. ***May the "goodness" of the Lord be expressed through your life and ministry!***

**THURSDAY:** ***God by nature is merciful (Deut. 7:7-8)!*** The gentleness of God is stunning (Ps. 136:2-3). The majesty of His deity cannot be adequately described with words. God by nature is merciful because He is God. It is His nature to be merciful. God set Israel apart to be His own personal possession (Deut. 7:7). God remained faithful to His promise to shepherd and provide for His chosen people (7:8). God's promise was kept not because of anything Israel could do to earn His love, but because of God's intrinsic goodness. God could do nothing but keep His promise to Israel. God is merciful to Israel because He is God and it is His nature. Thank the Lord God for His merciful nature and His call upon your life. Praise Him for His intrinsic goodness and His mercy shown to you. ***May the merciful nature of the Lord become a powerful part of your life!***

**FRIDAY:** ***Thanksgiving begins with our surrender to God (Matt. 6:9-13)!*** The gentleness of God is depicted in His deity and in His dominion. All power in heaven and earth is the Lord God's (Ps. 136:3). Our God is Almighty. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge" (Proverbs 1:7). The "fear of the Lord" is reverence for God. This reverential awe and admiring of the Lord God creates the submissive fear that is foundational for all spiritual knowledge and wisdom. Thanksgiving begins with a sense of surrender to God and a celebration of His absolute authority (Matt. 6:9-13). The Lord's Prayer contains statements about God's absolute authority in almost every line. Read the prayer and find at least five such references. Revere and worship the Lord today. Pray with a submissive spirit of worship for your Almighty God. Thanksgiving begins with surrender. ***May God's Almighty power bring a sense of order and dominion to your world!***

**SATURDAY:** ***Train your eyes to look vertically toward God (Ps. 136:26)!*** The nature of the human condition is to constantly lower our gaze to the horizontal. To become immersed in the menial, everyday drudgery of life on earth is to blunt the purpose of the Christian's mission (2 Tim. 2:4). Lift your eyes to the heavens and to see the Lord high and lifted up. Allow Him to steal your gaze and hold it on Him (Ps. 136:26). Live with an understanding of the majesty of God. Pursue improbable areas of ministry and strive for the extreme edges of faith. Shun the ordinary, routine life of meager faith and step out on the limb where Paul and others have lived. Faith is the victory! Live by faith in the Son of God. Train your eyes to look vertically toward God! Ask the Lord to increase your faith. Pray for a life that is beyond the "normal" of horizontal Christianity. Choose to live with the Lord by faith with a vertical gaze. ***May this choice truly change who you are in the kingdom of God!***