

Enter His Gates with Thanksgiving

We have been talking about having the gates of heaven open over our lives, now I want to share about entering the gates of heaven where Christ dwells

Psalm 100: 1 – 4

I. PROTOCOL OF THE THRONE ROOM

Video Clip from The Queen or The today show.

You cannot just enter anyway you want.

Nehemiah was downcast in the presence of the king and the king wanted to know what the problem was that brought his attitude down so far.

Matthew 7: 14

The protocol that we are called to enter is thanksgiving, but this is more than just thank you Lord.

Want to look at how this is a protocol so we don't curtsy when we are called to bow.

II. THANKSGIVING IS NOT

- a. based on our possessions
 - a. In our battle of consumerism we are always basing it on what we have
- b. Not just for people in our lives
- c. Not for health
- d. It could be worse so I should worship Him
- e. These things will all excuse someone from worshipping and entering with Thanksgiving into the courts.

EXAMPLE: we live in an entitlement society and we begin to believe that God owes us or this church owes us, or that person owes us. Even though we live in the greatest society every, we can become complainers.

III. ENTERING INTO HIS COURTS.

Thanksgiving is not just an action, it is a lifestyle that God is calling us to. We can incorporate these into our vocal worship, but that will fall short of what God is asking of us.

Vs 1 Charles Spurgeon said that we will never be closer to our proper position than when we with a unanimous shout praise our God.

EXAMPLE: The whole earth is the Lord's and everything in it. Raging that is happening because the presence of God is showing itself and Satan is raging like never before.

Vs 2 Worship (Serve)
Romans 1: 18 – 23

Result is we are abandoned to do what our evil hearts desired. Life becomes a chore to serve the Lord and when we are asked to step up and respond.

EXAMPLE: Can you imagine being served by a waiter who is moping and dejected about everything you ask of them.

EXAMPLE: serving is not a 7 – 3 job where we check out, it is always at his beck and call.

Same verse used in Psalm 2: 11 Serve the Lord with reverent fear and rejoice with trembling.

EXAMPLE: standing under Niagara Falls the power and awe of the water feet in front of your face. Fear and Awe.

Vs 3 Acknowledge that the Lord is God.

We tend to lean toward natural agnosticism of not knowing who God is and not desiring to search him out.

1. Worship must be intelligent. (can't sing of his grace if you don't know his grace)
2. He is the Lord God and there is no other. Self sustaining and self existing one. Sovereign ruler of all
3. We are made by him and for him. Clay and potter making a vessel for his own use, Jesus also made the clay that he is using to fashion into what he wants it to be.
4. We are the sheep of his pasture.
 1. Ezekiel 34 prophesied that a shepherd would come and make us his sheep
 2. Jesus is the gate in which we enter the courtroom of God. The straight gate is Jesus.
 3. John 10: 15 So I sacrifice my life for the sheep.
5. Psalm 24: 1- 5 repentance in entering the presence of the king and climbing the mountain of the Lord. Mountain is where worship happens and is challenged. Satan took Jesus to the mountain and showed him the whole world and demanded worship.

Vs 4 Enter His gates with thanksgiving.

During problems?

Psalm 22: 1 – 5 even in distress we cry out to God and He hears us.

New Testament

Philippians 4: 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition with thanksgiving present your request to God.

In nothing be anxious, stop being anxious, but in every form of prayer, be thankful

Vs 5 he is truth, love and mercy which continue to pour out in never ending quantities.

KEY POINT: We are thankful because of who He is and that we have access into that presence.