



Pastor's Comments

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Catalyst for Thanks

God's character is the foundation upon which our faith rests and **the catalyst for giving thanks at all times.** "O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good; for his mercy endureth forever" (I Chron. 16:34); "...give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness" (Psalm 30:4); "It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto thy name (character), O most High: To show forth thy loving kindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night" (Psalm 92:1-2).

In Psalm 119, we see that **God's just and righteous nature inspires thanks and praise to God in difficult circumstances.** Five times in Psalm 119, David refers to God's "**righteous judgments**" and other times he mentions that His judgments are "**right**" and "**upright.**" The word "judgments" means "a verdict pronounced or a determination." David is acknowledging that God never has and never will make a mistake in His verdicts or decisions! **This is cause for us to thank and praise God!** "I will praise thee with uprightness of heart, when I shall have learned thy righteous judgments" (vs. 7); "At midnight I will rise to give thanks unto thee because of thy righteous judgments" (vs. 62); "Seven times a day do I praise thee because of thy righteous judgments" (vs. 164). Knowing that God will **always do right in every situation induces thanksgiving!** "I know that the LORD will maintain the cause of the afflicted, and the right of the poor. Surely the righteous shall give thanks unto thy name..." (Psalm 140:12-13).

Thanking and praising God in the midst of hardships affirms that we believe God is just and right in all His actions! Job is a perfect example of this. After he had heard the terrible news that all of his possessions had been destroyed or taken from him and that all of his children were killed, he "**worshipped, and said, "Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord!"**" (Job 1:20-21)

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