THE SACRIFICE OF THANKSGIVING

I will offer unto thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving. Psalm 116:17a

 There is a song that says “Through it all, I have learned to trust in Jesus, I’ve learned to trust in God. Through it all, I’ve learned to depend upon his Word.” The Psalmist in the One Hundred and Sixteenth Psalm seemed to have been through it all. He had experienced the sorrows of death, the pains of hell, and trouble and sorrow in verse three. He had been brought low in verse six. In verse eight his soul had neared death and his eyes were full of tears. He had been greatly afflicted in the tenth verse. Through it all, the Lord had been there for him and had been his cup of salvation. Because of the Lord’s deliverance the Psalmist had a sacrifice of thanksgiving.

 This foundation of trouble had been laid for the experience of grace to be found by the Psalmist. Notice the memorable verses that come out of this Psalm: verse one “I love the Lord, because he hath heard my voice and my supplication.” Look at verse five: “Gracious is the Lord, and righteous yea, out God is merciful.” Verse number nine says, “I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living.” I love these words from verse ten, “I believed, therefore have I spoken.” Verse twelve is a noted verse, “What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me?” I bank on this verse when a saint has died: “Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.”

 When we are convinced of our place in the service of the Lord, our sacrifice of thanksgiving doesn’t seem very sacrificial. Listen to the voice of Psalmist in verse sixteen, “O Lord, truly I am thy servant; I am thy servant, and the son of thy handmaid: thou has loosed my bonds.” Our soul finds rest in Jesus, and it cries from the depths of gratitude unto him “Praise ye the Lord! Praise ye the Lord!”

 We arrive here today and think back over the past year and many changes have taken place. Some have caught a glimpse of the gray horse but God has brought you through. Others may feel they have experienced the pains of hell but God’s grace has you here in his house this very day with opportunity to offer the thanksgiving sacrifice. Still others have lived off a steady diet of trouble and sorrow and thank God, Satan has not gained the victory over you. The cup of salvation that the Lord provides for us sometimes seems like a five gallon bucket or even a fifty-five gallon barrel. When we look at where we’ve been and discover where we are at, our heart begins to sing, “Then sins my soul, My Savior God to thee, How great thou art! How great thou art!”

 Therefore I bless you Lord for never forsaking me in the valleys; for bringing me occasionally form the valleys to the mountains and though I may often be in the valley, I thank you that I can still see the mountain and know that it will be my final destination.

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram