

Message: ***Thanks-giving to Thanks-living***

Scripture: Psalm 95

(11-19-23 Pastor Tony Hao)

Psalm 95 is a psalm for corporate worship, that talks about God's creation of the universe, and how thanksgiving is the appropriate response. People are to respond in thankfulness for His past and continued actions; and understand how He cares for His own.

But we fail to hear the voice of God. We tend to listen to the loudest, rebellious doubts. They come in the form of noisy entertainment distractions, lazy lethargy, or otherwise fine endeavors that take us away from the calling the God has for us. The results, like those of Israel, are a loss of blessing, lack of joy, peace and ultimately death.

GROWING DEEPER (Reflection & Application)

1. Our first duty when we come before God's presence should be with thanksgiving. This command *"is a telling accusation of the human tendency for forgetfulness, laziness, and ingratitude that we need to be called upon to praise God through thanksgiving."* Do you agree?
2. Not only is God a "great God," but He is also "our God"— our own God — brought into the closest personal relationship with us. We are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand. We are led by Him, tended by Him, fed by Him. What does complaining reveal about our heart and attitude toward God?
3. The last part of Psalm 95:7 is a startling call, intimating that the time has come for a momentous decision. God is crying to His people—will they hear, or will they hold back? If they hear his voice, all will go well; If they refuse to hear his voice, they shall not enter into his rest. Do you listen to God's voice more, or of anyone or anything else?
4. We develop the habit of thanks-living when we LOOK UP to God, when we LOOK OUT for God's care, and when we LOOK INTO God's Word. Which area do you need to improve? What do you need to do?