ctronicles 16:34

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CUT ALONG THE DOTTED LINES
PACK IN LUNCHBOXES
HIDE FOR A STRANGER
STASH IN A BRIEFCASE
HAND TO A LOYED ONE
GIVE TO A FRIEND IN NEED
SHARE THE LOYE, SPREAD HIS TRUTH

LUMIN - TRUTH ILLUMINATED | HIS WORD, YOUR HEART



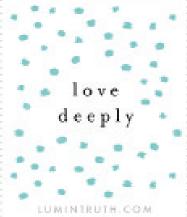
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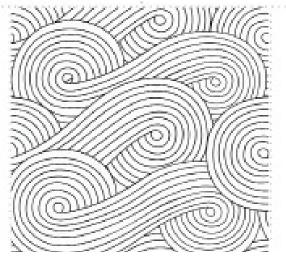


love one another.

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1 PETER 4:8





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1 Chronicles 16:34

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever."

Our verse for November is written by newly appointed King David in a section of scripture labeled as a "psalm of thanks". The whole psalm (1 Chronicles 16:7-36) is filled with past miraculous and marvelous things the Lord did for the Israelites and how worthy He is to receive their thanks and praise. You see this in 1 Chronicles 16:15-18, 36; "The Lord remembers his covenant forever, the word he commanded, for a thousand generations, the covenant he made with Abraham, the oath he swore to Isaac. He confirmed it to Jacob as a decree, to Israel as an everlasting covenant...Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting".

We see two of God's characteristics in our verse; His goodness and His love. God is always good and can do no wrong. We experience His goodness to us through His steadfast love for us. The whole Bible is the story of God's pursuit of man out of His unconditional love for us. In His love, He created us in His image and to be in communion with him forever. In the midst of sin, He made a covenant with man because of His love for us. In His love, He provided atonement and redemption through his only Son's death on the cross and resurrection. Once His Son returned to heaven, He sent His very presence, the Holy Spirit, to dwell within us because of His great love. These truths should compel us to give thanks to the Lord!

Yet, let's remember that we are all guilty, deserve death and not are worthy of his goodness and love without Jesus' sacrifice. Titus 3:4-5 says, "...but when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy." We are owed nothing and deserve nothing, not even salvation, BUT God is good to us. He is good to us even when life looks bad or uncertain. We don't just give Him thanks when things are going well and He appears good to us from our selfish perspective, but we thank Him because He IS good. We also need to be confident that His love endures forever because of His goodness. The Lord told Moses this about himself in Exodus 34:6-7, "The Lord, the Lord, is compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to the thousands and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin."

Giving thanks to the Lord isn't meant to be a focus of ours just in the month of November as we prepare for the Thanksgiving holiday. The phrase "give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever" appear more times in psalms of David (Psalm 106:1, 107:1, 118:1, 118:29, and 136:1). Let us take David's example and remind each other to not be forgetful and ungrateful people, BUT to always give thanks to God for who He is and what He has done!





DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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The key to giving thanks in our busy everyday lives is remembering. Remembering who God truly is, what He says about himself, what He has done for us and what He has done in our hearts and lives in the past.

Do you intentionally remember what God has done for you? What are specific ways God has been good to you? Your family?

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God tells us to give thanks and with God there are never conditions. This means we don't just thank Him when things are good or when we feel like it. How can you thank him in the hard days?

Write out a short prayer of thanks on a note card this month and put it somewhere special to be reminded to say your prayer of thanksgiving to our good God.

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LUMIN | Truth Illuminated Psalms 119:130 The unfolding of your words give light - it gives understanding to the simple. God's word providing light in our lives. His words iLUMINating truth in our hearts.

HIS WORDS | YOUR HEART

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