

06/18/17 BUCYRUS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

“HIS FAITHFUL LOVE ENDURES FOREVER”

Pastor Mike Corwin

Text: Psalm 136 God’s Word: Luke 17:11-19

I - BEING THANKFUL:

A couple of months ago someone at one of the meetings I attend here at the church made a remark about how much God has blessed our church here. As they look around and see all the growth we are having and all the things we are doing, they know that God is definitely blessing us here at Bucyrus United Methodist Church.

Someone else remarked that we should be thanking God profusely and we should be doing it now - not waiting until one Sunday in November as we near the holiday of Thanksgiving, but that we should be doing it now.

Thus was born the idea of this Sunday. A Sunday when we would give thanks to God for all that he's done for us and continues to do. So I hope you join me today in that kind of praise and thanksgiving to our God and our Savior.

II - MEAN IT!:

But I want to say this...WE MUST MEAN IT! I don't want to give God some lip service about how thankful we are. I want us to mean it...to put some feeling in it. I want God to know how much we praise him for all that he has blessed us with.

I want to be like the one leper who came back and thanked Jesus and gave God the glory for his being healed. I don't want us to be like the other 9 who were also blessed but just took it for granted and went on their way. It's like they thought God somehow owed it to them. A "what have you done for me lately" kind of attitude!

I think most church people fall somewhere in between these two extremes. They are grateful for what God has done for them, but they are a little reserved in how they show it. God forbid that they would show some emotions and heartfelt praise. Just saying it's good enough.

III - VIDEO:

Here's a video that someone shared with me that I think makes this point.

(SHOW TIM HAWKIN'S HAND RAISING VIDEO)

We need to be unashamed and unreserved when we praise our God. After all...he deserves it!

IV - TEXT:

The Psalmist knew how to worship God! How to praise and thank him. They went all the way back to the Creation to give God praise and to recognize that his love would never end. One of the temple hymns is recorded in Psalm 136. I want you to join along and repeat the refrain after every verse.

PSALM 136 (NLT)

¹*Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever.*

²*Give thanks to the God of gods. His faithful love endures forever.*

³*Give thanks to the Lord of lords. His faithful love endures forever.*

⁴*Give thanks to him who alone does mighty miracles. His faithful love endures forever.*

⁵*Give thanks to him who made the heavens so skillfully. His faithful love endures forever.*

⁶*Give thanks to him who placed the earth among the waters. His faithful love endures forever.*

⁷*Give thanks to him who made the heavenly lights—His faithful love endures forever.*

⁸*the sun to rule the day, His faithful love endures forever.*

⁹*and the moon and stars to rule the night. His faithful love endures forever.*

¹⁰*Give thanks to him who killed the firstborn of Egypt. His faithful love endures forever.*

¹¹*He brought Israel out of Egypt. His faithful love endures forever.*

¹²*He acted with a strong hand and powerful arm. **His faithful love endures forever.***

¹³*Give thanks to him who parted the Red Sea. **His faithful love endures forever.***

¹⁴*He led Israel safely through, **His faithful love endures forever.***

¹⁵*but he hurled Pharaoh and his army into the Red Sea. **His faithful love endures forever.***

¹⁶*Give thanks to him who led his people through the wilderness. **His faithful love endures forever.***

¹⁷*Give thanks to him who struck down mighty kings. **His faithful love endures forever.***

¹⁸*He killed powerful kings—**His faithful love endures forever.***

¹⁹*Sihon king of the Amorites, **His faithful love endures forever.***

²⁰*and Og king of Bashan. **His faithful love endures forever.***

²¹*God gave the land of these kings as an inheritance—**His faithful love endures forever.***

²²*a special possession to his servant Israel. **His faithful love endures forever.***

²³*He remembered us in our weakness. **His faithful love endures forever.***

²⁴*He saved us from our enemies. **His faithful love endures forever.***

²⁵*He gives food to every living thing. **His faithful love endures forever.***

²⁶*Give thanks to the God of heaven. **His faithful love endures forever.***

I'm not going to break this scripture down for you like I usually do. Instead I am going to continue making this a hymn of praise and thanksgiving for this church...this congregation.

As I read off the things we are thankful for please respond again with "HIS FAITHFUL LOVE ENDURES FOREVER."

(I WILL READ A LIST OF OUR BLESSINGS CONCERNING THE CHURCH AND THEN PAUSE FOR THE RESPONSE ON EACH ONE.)

V - BE FAITHFUL:

I don't believe that God is even close to being done with us...that his blessings will dry up. I believe we are on the verge of seeing another great move of God in the world and this church could well be an integral part of it.

As we continue to get blessed, we must continue to give thanks. We have just repeated over and over about how his love will last forever...our praise and thanks must do the same.

Open your eyes, your hearts, and your souls to the mighty works of his hands and then stop and give thanks when you see him at work!

AMEN