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| CTW – Ps 95:1-7bPsalm 30 + Various  | Prayer: The Need for Thanksgiving | Pinelands – 9am – 29/10/2023Thornton – 10:30am – 29/10/2023  |

German Catholic Theologian, Philosopher and Mystic…

**Meister Eckhart** said many things but this one sticks with me.

***“If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is,***

 ***Thank You, it will be enough.”***

We must never neglect or miss the opportunity to…

Say… THANK YOU or to be… THANKFUL

For today I want to preach a little differently.

 Instead of a 3 point sermon I want to share a 5 point sermon.

Based on the **ACROSTIC – T H A N K S**

*(Readings follow and complete each point)*

**T = Trust** *(Proverbs 3:5-6)*

**IN WHAT IS IT THAT WE TRUST…?** *(Response)*

*(God, Jesus, our Jobs, People, Laws of Physics)*

Often we only **TRUST** what we know…

Knowledge, People, Laws *(science, etc)*

 BUT… just as Often we **TRUST** what we ***do not*** know…

 Our Cars… But do we know how they work?

 Planes… BUT how do they stay up in the air?

 We TRUST others… until they let us down.

TRUST… Is easier for some than it is for others

This is what Scripture says…*(Proverbs 3:5)*

 ***“Trust in the Lord with all your heart.***

 ***Never rely on what you think you know.***

 ***Remember the Lord in everything you do,***

 ***And he will show you the right way”***

**H = Hope** *(Romans 8:24-25)*

 **IN WHAT IS IT THAT WE HOPE…?**

 **NOT…** what do we hope for?…

**IN WHAT DO WE HOPE?** *(Response)*

 *(The goodness of humanity, our resilience, Nature)*

We often default into hoping for something…

then when we get it… we have it… our hope is gone…

 Then we need to… find something else to hope for.

**Isaiah 40:31… *“but those who hope in the Lord will renew their***

 ***strength. They will soar on wings like eagles;***

 ***they will run and not grow weary,***

 ***they will walk and not be faint.”*** *(NIV)*

**Jeremiah 29:11 *“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the***

 ***Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you,***

 ***plans to give you hope and a future.”***

**Hear what Psalm 42:11 says…**

 ***“I will put my hope in God,***

 ***and once again I will praise him,***

 ***my savior and my God”***

*Having placed our* ***TRUST and HOPE*** *in God we are able to* ***ACT.***

**A = Action** *(Proverbs 17:24)*

 - What causes us to act…? ***(Response)***

 There is never an action…

 An action is always a reaction to something…

- instinct, thought, result of training,

 - life experience, a Choice

 - Some actions are voluntary…

 others are involuntary.

**BUT…** Actions always have consequences*… results*

 *(Those are not always what we want)*

 We need to think through our actions…

 **This is what Scripture says…*(Proverbs 17:24)***

 ***“An intelligent person aims at wise action,***

 ***but a fool starts off in many directions.”***

Having placed our ***TRUST*** and ***HOPE*** in God…

That leads us to ***ACTION…***

Which in turn brings about ***NEW THINGS…***

**N = New Things** *(Zephaniah 3:17)*

 It is always nice to get new things, discover new things,

 Learn new things and start new adventures.

 Because our actions always have consequences…

 ***NEW THINGS***… are always available to us

God promises New Life…

 Scripture says…*(Zephaniah 3:17)*

 *“The Lord your God is with you;*

*his power gives you victory.*

 *The Lord will take delight in you,*

*and in his love will Give you* ***NEW LIFE****.”*

**K = Kindness** *(Philippians 2:1)*

 In this **NEW LIFE** we will discover the ***Heart of God…***

 Who God is, Why God is, and how he transforms us

 This will become evident as we **grow in community…**

 As we care for one another…

with **KINDNESS and compassion**

Scripture puts it this way… *(Philippians 2:1)*

 ***“Your life in Christ makes you strong, and his love comforts***

 ***you. You have fellowship with the Spirit, and you have***

 ***Kindness and Compassion for one another.***

**S = Strength** *(Colossians 1:11)*

 Strength **is not…** being able to move heavy stuff…

 being able to run 30 Km / ride the Argus

**STRENGTH** is the ability to cope and help others to cope.

 It is **STRENGTH** of character that counts…

 In our **KINDNESS** and compassion we are able to…

 help each other be strong.

 But it is a **STRENGTH** that comes from…

God and our relationship with Him

Scripture says it this way…*(Colossians 1:11)*

 ***“May you be made strong with all the strength which comes***

 ***from his glorious power, so that you may be able to endure***

 ***everything with patience.”***

Having placed our **TRUST** and **HOPE** in God

And That leads us to **ACTION**

Which in turn brings about **NEW THINGS…**

 And new things grow us in **KINDNESS AND STRENGTH.**

**SO…** In our **Prayers** and In our **Life**

**Let us** **Never neglect** or miss the **Opportunity To…**

**Say… THANKS**

**Be… THANKFUL**

**Share… THANKGIVING**

**Psalm 95:1-7b**

Come, let us praise the Lord!

 Let us sing for joy to God, who protects us!

Let us come before him with thanksgiving

 and sing joyful songs of praise.

For the Lord is a mighty God,

 a mighty king over all the gods.

He rules over the whole earth,

 from the deepest caves to the highest hills.

He rules over the sea, which he made;

 the land also, which he himself formed.

Come, let us bow down and worship him;

 let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

He is our God;

 we are the people he cares for,

 the flock for which he provides.

**Psalm 30** **A Prayer of Thanksgiving**

I praise you, Lord, because you have saved me

 and kept my enemies from gloating over me.

I cried to you for help, O Lord my God,

 and you healed me;

 you kept me from the grave.

I was on my way to the depths below,

 but you restored my life.

Sing praise to the Lord,

 all his faithful people!

Remember what the Holy One has done,

 and give him thanks!

His anger lasts only a moment,

 his goodness for a lifetime.

Tears may flow in the night,

 but joy comes in the morning.

I felt secure and said to myself,

 “I will never be defeated.”

You were good to me, Lord;

 you protected me like a mountain fortress.

But then you hid yourself from me,

 and I was afraid.

I called to you, Lord;

 I begged for your help:

“What will you gain from my death?

 What profit from my going to the grave?

Are dead people able to praise you?

 Can they proclaim your unfailing goodness?

Hear me, Lord, and be merciful!

 Help me, Lord!”

You have changed my sadness into a joyful dance;

 you have taken away my sorrow

 and surrounded me with joy.

So I will not be silent;

 I will sing praise to you.

Lord, you are my God;

 I will give you thanks forever.