

Thursday Talk Story #11 April 1, 2010

“O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, those he redeemed from trouble.” Psalm 107: 2

The pagan Roman god Janus looked at the past and forward to the future with his two faces. We look back into the past and forward to the future too. We remember winter and are happy it is behind us. Tiny patches of snow on the shaded parts of our memories are the only reminder of blizzards past. Even if a snow shower shows up now, we know it won't last long. We are moving forward into spring. Birds are soaring and singing and we are even looking beyond them to summer.

As we remember the past do we see how, when, and where God has been good to us? Loved us? Redeemed us from trouble? I sure do! In High school, I fell off a hay wagon and broke my left wrist. Co-workers drove me home. Friends phoned. Parents took me to the hospital. The doctor and nurses operated and set my arm in a cast. God healed it over the summer. I remember. I'm thankful.

I remember the Lord's goodness in family gatherings and outings. I see God's grace in countless practices that return annually like Lent, Holy Week and 50 days of the Easter Season in church that give joy and meaning to life. I remember past summers of gardening, fishing, biking, walking, swimming, reading, visiting, traveling and eating. Are not all these, gifts from God's gracious generosity? Blessings from God who loves the world?

God's love endures forever. We see it in creation, daily life, and the secret salvation plan of Jesus. What is the purpose of life? As we recognize that all of life is gift from God, the purpose of life is gratitude to God. As some wise sage once put it long ago:

“The chief end of life is to glorify God and enjoy God forever.....” And because of the Resurrection of Jesus, will enjoy God and life forever! O God, thank you for past rescues, present joys and future hopes in Jesus Christ, the Resurrection and the Life forever.

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