

## Thankful (5) (Psalm 117)

### *Thankful I Can Give Thanks to the Lord*

**Introduction:** Today, we're diving into the shortest chapter in the Bible, Psalm 117. But don't let its size fool you— This is a very powerful Psalm.

There is some mystery about the Psalm, *for example...*

1. **The author of Psalm 117** is not explicitly identified in the text itself, and the Bible does not provide a clear and direct attribution.  
While it looks and sounds like other Psalms of David, *we simply don't know*.
2. **There is an obvious anonymity as to the authorship** *this omission leaves its authorship uncertain*.
3. **We do know is, it is part of the Hallel Psalms:** (Psalms 113–118), it's possible it was composed by temple musicians or priests for public worship during Jewish festivals.
4. **Its timing is uncertain** - Some scholars suggest that this psalm might have been written after the Babylonian exile (6th century BCE) a period when Israel began to have a broader understanding of God's universal purposes, especially as they interacted with other nations.
5. **Ultimately what we know regardless of the mysteries surrounding its author or its timing, it is inspired by God** 2 Timothy 3:16
6. **Its universal message transcends the questions** of who wrote it and when, focusing instead on the call to worship the Lord.

**The themes and purpose of Psalm 117** reflect the collective voice of Israel's worship tradition...

1. **Placement in the Bible** -The Center of the Bible: Psalm 117 is at the very heart of Scripture.
2. **Audience and call is significant** - Unlike many psalms that are deeply personal or specific to Israel, Psalm 117 extends its call to *all nations* and *all peoples*.
  - **It is evangelistic in nature:** This psalm aligns with the Abrahamic covenant in Genesis 12:3, where God promises to bless *all nations* through Abraham's seed.
  - **It anticipates the Great Commission**, where Jesus commands His followers to make disciples of *all nations* (Matthew 28:19).

**The key themes of this psalm are:**

- **God's steadfast love:** *This love is the basis for why He is to be praised.*
  - **God's faithfulness:** The psalm emphasizes that God's promises are reliable and eternal. The psalm calls people to respond to God's attributes—His love and faithfulness—with gratitude and adoration. *It is a model of pure worship.*
4. **Its theological significance**
    - **Unity of all people:** The psalm points to a future where all nations come together to worship God. *This vision is echoed in Revelation 7:9.*
    - **It emphasizes God's universal sovereignty:** By calling *all peoples* to praise, the psalm affirms that Yahweh is not just Israel's God but the God of the whole world. His love and faithfulness are for everyone.

5. **Its connection to Jesus** - Psalm 117 is fulfilled in Christ.

- Through His death and resurrection, Jesus opened the way for all nations to come into a relationship with God. (Jn. 3:16; Rom. 5:8; 15:11)

**6. The practical lessons of this psalm are very clear**

- **Praise is for everyone:** True worship transcends borders, languages, and cultures. It calls us to join in global praise of God.
- **God is always worthy:** Even in its brevity, the psalm gives us timeless reasons to praise—God's love and faithfulness never fail.
- **Praise should be simple:** Sometimes the most profound worship is the simplest. Two verses, yet they express the heart of our faith.

So, with the few minutes we have left, we're going to unpack Psalm 117 using the acronym "THANKS." As we head into Thanksgiving week, let's learn how to give thanks to the Lord daily, joyfully, and wholeheartedly.

**T - Testify to His goodness** - The psalmist starts by calling *all nations* to praise God because He is good.

Our testimonies of God's goodness encourage others to join in thanksgiving. This is why it is so important for you to share your story! Whether it's a small blessing or a miracle, it's a reason to give thanks. (Ps. 100:5; Ex. 34:6; Ps. 145:9; 1 Chor. 16:34)

**H - Honor His faithfulness** - Psalm 117 reminds us that His love and faithfulness endure forever.

Through every storm or sunny day, He's there. When we honor His faithfulness, we acknowledge His unchanging nature. (Deut. 7:9; Ps. 36:5; 89:8; 119:90; Lam. 3:22-23; 1 Cor. 1:9; 2 Thes. 3:3)

**A - Appreciate His love** -God's love isn't just great; it's personal and everlasting. (Isaiah 49:16).

God's love for us is the reason we can wake up each day with great hope and gratitude! (1 Chor. 16:34; 2 Chor. 5:13; 7:3; Ez. 3:11; Ps. 106:1; 107:1; 118:1)

**N - Notice His works** - God's creation is a 24/7 reminder of His greatness. (Ps. 19; Rom. 1:19-20)

As we look around, we can see countless reasons to thank Him—from the food on your table to the breath in your lungs. (Ps. 8:3; 33:6; Isa. 40: 22-26; Jer. 10:11)

**K - Keep praising Him** - Psalm 117 is a call to continuous praise. Praise isn't just for Sunday mornings—it's a lifestyle.

When we praise God daily, we shift our focus from what we lack to what we've been given in every season of our lives (1 Chor. 16:34; 1Thes. 5:8; Heb. 12:28; 1 Cor. 1:4; 15:57; 2 Cor. 9:15; Col. 3:15, 17: 4:2 Eph. 5:20; Js. 1:17)

**S - Share the joy** - Psalm 117 invites *all peoples* to praise God.

When we share our gratitude, we spread joy and inspire others to turn their hearts and eyes toward God. (Rom. 15:13; 12:12; Phil. 4:4; Gal. 5:22; Jn. 16:24; Prov. 17:22)

**Conclusion:** Psalm 117 may be small, but its message is huge: give thanks to the Lord for His love, faithfulness, and mighty works.