

“Taste And See That The Lord Is Good”

Introduction. Have you ever tried to describe the taste of a specific food to someone? Food is meant to be tasted, savored, and enjoyed, but describing it is not very easy. When we try to tell people about what it is like being a Christian, we really struggle because we understand that sometimes you just have to taste something in order to appreciate it.

Psalm 34 is an acrostic psalm of thanksgiving. In it, David calls on the congregation to praise the Lord for delivering him and for His goodness to His people (vv. 1-10) and then instructs the people concerning the righteous path to a long life (vv. 11-22). But David’s affirmation in v. 8 is what we want to emphasize today.

David speaks of communion with God, which is a special connection through divine association. His exposure to God’s goodness was empirical evidence of God’s existence. David had experienced a relationship with the Lord, and he invites us to enjoy God’s goodness.

I. “Taste” God’s Goodness In The Beauty Of Nature

- A. Too often we rush hastily through life without appreciating the budding flower, the colorful rainbow, the spectacular sunset, the chirping bird, and the gentle breeze.
- B. The glory and wisdom of God are evident in the beauty of nature (Psalm 19:1; cp. Nehemiah 9:6; Job 26:13; Amos 4:13; Acts 14:15). Only the Christian is moved to filial wonder and joy at the thought of their Maker, so take time to drink deeply from God’s creation.

II. “Taste” God’s Goodness Through His Word

- A. When I was a kid my Mom had a rule: “No snacking before supper.” We could have a light snack after school, but as dinner drew near, if she caught me in the kitchen looking for something to eat, she would say, “Get out of here! You’ll ruin your appetite!” Her prepared meals were much better than junk food.
- B. Do not ruin your divine appetite with “spiritual junk food.” We can mentally and emotionally ingest personal opinions, human philosophy and secular wisdom that neither satisfies the soul or produces spiritual growth (1 Corinthians 1:18-21; cp. Psalm 119:103; Proverbs 2:6; 6:23). We need to learn how to love the law of God (Psalm 119:167) because the more we love it, the more we will want it to be the guide of our lives (1 Thessalonians 2:13; James 1:21).

III. “Taste” God’s Goodness In Salvation Through Christ

- A. Jesus came not for us to read about Him, but to know Him (1 John 2:3-4; 5:20). Knowing Him means experiencing a deep relationship, obedient with Him — to “taste” Him. Jesus is “the living water” and “the bread of life” (John 4:10; 6:35).
- B. A concise place in the New Testament that sums up what we have in Jesus Christ is in Ephesians 1:3-14:
 - 1. Chose us (v. 4).
 - 2. Predestined us to adoption (v. 5).
 - 3. Bestowed grace on us (v. 6).
 - 4. Redemption (v. 7).

5. Forgiveness (v. 7).
 6. Revealed the mystery (v. 9).
 7. Inheritance (v. 11).
 8. Sealed with the Holy Spirit (v. 13).
- C. Contemplating all these blessings, is it any wonder that people rejoiced in the salvation available only in Jesus Christ (Acts 8:39; 16:34)?

IV. “Taste” God’s Goodness Through His Protective Refuge

- A. David experienced a lot of difficulties in life: temptations, trials, and taunts. He had been doubted by his family, treated with contempt by his leaders, and chased like a wild animal by his enemies. But he never lost faith in God.
- B. This psalm corresponds with an episode in David’s life when he fled from Saul to the Philistine city of Gath; while there, he pretended to be insane because he feared the Philistines (1 Samuel 21:10-15). The incident threatened to cost David his life, and the psalm expresses relief and gratitude for a miraculous escape.
- C. God was David’s refuge — his place of safety, security, and solace (Deuteronomy 33:27; Psalm 46:1; 71:3). We need someone to calm the raging torrent in our lives much like the disciples needed to Lord to calm the sea (Luke 8:24). Let Him be your shield (Psalm 28:7; 84:11; Proverbs 30:5). Let Him hear from you when you struggle (Philippians 4:6-7; 1 Peter 5:6-7).

V. “Taste” God’s Goodness In Godly Fellowship

- A. God purposed that we do more than believe. He wants us to belong to a caring community of Christians through warm fellowship. When Christians take their rightful place in the spiritual family, it brings nourishment to the soul and sustains our spirit (Romans 15:32; 1 Corinthians 16:18; 2 Corinthians 7:13; 2 Timothy 1:16; Philemon 7, 20).
- B. We experience how good this relationship is by the common sharing of salvation (2 Peter 1:1) and of earthly experiences (Romans 12:15). At times we need to correct each other, and we do this out of love and the desire for fellow saints to glorify God in their actions (2 Timothy 4:2; Titus 1:13). This is simply following the example of Christ (Revelation 3:19). “Despise not” the chastening of brethren who love you (cp. Hebrews 12:5).

Conclusion. Psalm 34:1 says, “I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.” Wouldn’t you like to experience the relationship you can have in Jesus Christ? If you are ready for it, acknowledge it by coming to Jesus today.