



Big Idea: Thankful believers are dedicated to corporate worship.

-- Recognize the miracle of **MERCY** (v. 1-11).

a.) We cannot save ourselves (v. 1-10).

-- A thankful heart begins with the humble acknowledgement of our true spiritual predicament apart from Christ.

b.) The **WORLD** can't save us either (v. 11).

-- Hopes and purposes based in this world can never deliver what they promise.

-- Both the Bible and human history make clear that the only route to redemption is the road of repentance and faith.

-- A deeply thankful life begins with the recognition that the mercy of Christ is the only cure for our affliction of sin.

Key Question: What is the right response of the redeemed? (v. 12)

1.) Grab hold of the gift of **SALVATION** (v. 13).

-- The first and most important way to respond to God's mercy is to embrace the gift of salvation that He offers us in Christ (Rom. 10:13).

2.) Fix your eyes on **HEAVEN** (v. 15).

- The Psalmist is looking forward to eternal life in the kingdom of God.
- He is living this life for glory in the next. He is valuing his last day more than the present day (Matthew 6:19-21).
- The redeemed respond to the miracle of mercy by living for heaven, not for earth.

3.) Dedicate yourself to Christian **SERVICE** (v. 16).

- Voluntary bonds of service to the Lord begin only when God frees from our captivity to sin and self through the Gospel (Romans 6:22).
- Because God has graciously freed us from our bonds of sin and death, thankful believers dedicate themselves to Christian service.

4.) Dedicate yourself to **CORPORATE** worship (v. 14, 17-19).

- This Psalm goes to great lengths to emphasize the fact that our gratitude to God is not complete until it is expressed in the presence of God's assembled people (v. 14-19).
 - God is exalted when we praise Him while alone, but He is exalted all the more when we praise Him in the presence of others.
 - God's **PRAISES** are to be magnified and multiplied, not hidden in a closet or beneath a bowl (Matthew 5:14-16).
- God is not seeking a group of professional worship critics. He is seeking is true **WORSHIPPERS** (John 4:23).
- People will not see Christ in us if we gather in grumpiness, and they won't be inspired to seek Him if we are remiss to sing His praises.
- Thankful believers celebrate the God of our salvation in the **CONGREGATION** of His people.