

FOR THE LORD IS GOOD TESTIMONY

For the Lord is Good testimonies
Started with Davy Grimes
Continued with Mission Expo
And there are many, many more to come – many more
Today is my turn, my testimony

I want to both preach & testify
To do that, I want to use a launching pad
Psalm 116

PSALM 116

We have no authorship
No date
Perhaps it was written by a private person

Deeply personal and intensely intimate experience
Maybe part of remnant returning from Babylon

Moved from a crisis to personal praise
Psalm of thanksgiving
Declaration of trust, trust in God's providence
Hymn of gratitude for God's deliverance

THREE STANZAS OF HOW GOOD THE LORD IS TO HIM

STANZA 1: God heard me (1-2)

- ¹ *I love the LORD, because he has heard
my voice and my pleas for mercy.*
² *Because he inclined his ear to me,
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.* **Psalm 116:1-2**

Knowing God loves & cares for me, motivates me to call Him

STANZA 2: God delivered me (3-5)

- ³ *The snares of death (prevailing expression; see 8, 9 & 15)
encompassed me;
the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;
I suffered distress and anguish.*
⁴ *Then I called on the name of the LORD:
“O LORD, I pray, deliver my soul! (“I have no other refuge)”*
⁵ *Gracious is the LORD, and righteous;
our God is merciful (is why we call on the Lord because
that’s who He is).* **Psalm 116:3-5**

STANZA THREE: God saved me (6-9)

- ⁶ *The LORD preserves the simple;
when I was brought low, he saved me.*
⁷ *Return, O my soul, to your rest;
for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you.*
(Three sweeping confessions)
⁸ *For you have delivered my soul from death,
my eyes from tears,
my feet from stumbling;*

*⁹ I will walk before the LORD
in the land of the living.
¹⁰ I believed, even when I spoke:
“I am greatly afflicted”;
¹¹ I said in my alarm (hastily),
“All mankind are liars.”*

Psalm 116:6-11

HIS RESPONSE

*¹² What shall I render to the LORD
for all his benefits to me?*

Psalm 116:12

How do I respond?
What do I say?
What can I return to the Lord?
Can I return anything to the Lord?

THE RESULT

With WORSHIP (13-14, Three movements)

*¹³ I will **lift up the cup of salvation** (expressing acceptance)
and **call on the name** (expressing of dependence) of
the LORD,
¹⁴ I will **pay my vows** (expressing obedience) to the LORD
in the presence of all his people.*

With SURRENDER (15-16)

*¹⁵ **Precious in the sight of the LORD**
is the death of his saints.
(God regards death of a child of his w/special interest)
¹⁶ O LORD, I am your servant;
I am your servant, the son of your maidservant.
You have loosed my bonds.*

With GRATITUDE (17-19)

***17 I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and call on the name of the LORD*** (not out of obligation, but devotion)

***18 I will pay my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all his people,
19 in the courts of the house of the LORD,
in your midst, O Jerusalem.
Praise the LORD!***

MY PERSONAL FOR THE LORD IS GOOD TESTIMONY

How do I respond to 30 years of ministry with you?

Perhaps the psalmist can help me, when he wrote,

*What shall I render to the LORD
for all his benefits to me?*

Psalm 116:12

What shall I render to the Lord?

Nothing. I can offer him nothing.

I cannot repay the Lord for all His good to me

WHY CAN I NOT REPAY THE LORD

The psalmist is right: we can never repay all the good the Lord has done for us.

To do so, would be the antithesis to our Christian faith.

We are saved by faith

Christianity is founded on grace, not repayment

God's grace cancels all my debts

Thus, I have no debt to God

Besides, how could I ever repay the Lord?
That is not possible.

If we were to try to repay Him, it would shift our relationship
from a child to a debtor
from love to obligation
from grace received to merit earned

So, what shall I render to the Lord for all his benefits to me?

I NEVER KNEW I WOULD BE YOUR PASTOR

I never knew I would be A PASTOR

Football coach or teacher, maybe, but never a pastor
House painter or janitor, possibly, but never a pastor
Businessman or entrepreneur, potentially, but never a pastor

Moreover, I never knew I would be YOUR PASTOR

Vonda and I went into ministry with blind loyalty
We didn't know **WHERE** He would take us
We didn't know **WHAT** He would do with us
We didn't know **HOW** He would use us
We didn't know **WHO** He would place in our lives
But we knew **WHO** we were trusting
And we knew we could trust the Lord
We knew He would not fail us
We knew He would always care for us
We knew He would always be there for us