



On a Saturday morning each week one of our sons does my shopping. The other week he 'phoned me and said, "Mum, there are no soft rolls", then after a few seconds added, "Oh yes, there's just one pack left right at the back." My reply was, "God is good, He is looking after me." My son's answer to that was, "No Mum. God hasn't come down to do your shopping. It's me standing here in Morrisons."



THANKS

The above conversation caused me to think about saying, "Thank you." As Christians we often hear people talk about giving thanks to God but we have to make sure that we also give thanks to those who do things for us. We need to keep a balance between the thanks that we give to God and the



thanks that we give to others. I am thinking particularly about those who help us, in one way or another, on a regular basis. It is good to make sure that we thank the one who cooks a meal, drives the car, puts the bin out or delivers our prescription. When in church do we thank the one seeing to the



P.A system, the musicians or the singers in the worship group?

There are extra ways in which we can show our appreciation, such as a little note or a card. Our son enjoys a Welsh 'Bara brith' so every now and then I make him one of those – Not very healthy as there is loads of sugar in it, but very tasty with a bit of butter added! How about making it a special 'Thank you' week by going out of our way to give that extra thanks, especially perhaps to someone close to us who regularly does some chore or other.



There are numerous verses in the Bible that encourage us to say 'Thanks' to God. Many of the Psalms contain verses of thanks. At one point King David, who wrote quite a number of the Psalms, was surrounded by his enemies who wanted to kill him, yet even in that situation he was able to thank God for His faithfulness. I think that I would have just said, "H-E-L-P" !

ENEMIES

There are a couple of verses that Paul wrote, that are rather puzzling. *Ephesians 5:20*. '.....always and for everything give thanks.' *1 Thessalonians 5:17*. '....give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God.....' We feel fine giving thanks to God when things are going well or when something has particularly blessed us, but, giving thanks for everything and in all circumstances is quite another matter. How can we give thanks to God at times of bereavement, loss of job, lack of finance, accident or poor health issues? I think that Paul is telling us to try and be positive and to look at the good side in some of these events instead of constantly feeling sorry for ourselves and looking at the negative aspects. Bad times are not very pleasant but we can feel worse if we are forever moaning about what is happening to us. God is always there to strengthen and help us whatever our need might be at any specific time so that is a good starting point for thanks when hit by any unpleasant occurrences.

Back to the Psalms.

Psalm 107:1. 'O give thanks to the Lord for he is good, His steadfast love endures for ever.'

Over and above everything else the most important thing in our lives is to give thanks to God for the love that He has for each one of us. His love for us never changes regardless of anything that we might do or say; it is constant. His desire is that we have a close relationship with Him because that is why He created us.



Of course, we can never thank Jesus enough for what He did for us. Not only did He go through such an awful death on our behalf with a great deal of physical suffering, but also, He endured the spiritual separation from His Father God. He could have avoided all of these things but instead chose to show His love for us in order to make a way for our entrance into Heaven. A line in one of the songs we sing says, 'He is the way to Heaven.' Not only is He

A way, He is the **ONLY** way. It is only through declaring our love for Him that we are enabled to go to Heaven for eternity. How can we help but thank Him? How can we do anything other than thank Him for the tremendous change that He can make to our lives when we live for Him rather than purely for ourselves? It is only when we come to Jesus that we receive the ultimate satisfaction and meaning to our lives.

Psalm 30:12. Psalm of David. 'May my soul praise Thee and not be silent, O lord my God, I will give thanks to Thee for ever.'

Psalm 100:4. 'Give thanks to Him and bless His Name.'

Psalm 13:8. '.....thanks because God increases the strength of my soul.'



**THANK
YOU**

IN ALL THINGS
give
THANKS
love