



-- Read Psalm 116:1-19

-- Pray

-- **Redemption begins by submitting to the truth. (v. 10-11)**

-- v. 10 – “Therefore” – We cannot truly claim to believe in God’s mercy if we do not, at the same time, understand that we are afflicted.

-- v. 11 – “All men are liars.”

-- The world offers false hope for deliverance.

-- They lie, telling us, “you are not really afflicted” and “everything will work itself out in the end.”

-- The only route to redemption is the road of repentance.

-- The only people who are redeemed in Christ are those who surrender to the truth that we are afflicted with sin and that our sin requires a Savior.

-- We must turn away from the self-justification of the world and toward the true justification that only exists in Christ.

** The redeemed respond to the miracle of mercy by submitting to the truth that they are sinners in need of a Savior.

-- **Video Clip – Fireproof – Coffee Scoff**

-- **Big Idea: The miracle of mercy demands a response from the redeemed.**

-- **v. 12 – Key question...**

-- In response to having received the miracle of mercy any having been given the pinnacle of peace, “*How can I repay the Lord for all His goodness to me?*”

-- In other words, what is the proper response of the redeemed?

- In this text we see at least five ways in which we ought to respond to the goodness God has shown us in Christ...
- *How can we repay the Lord for all of His goodness to us?*

1.) The redeemed surrender. (v. 13)

- *“Lift up”*
 - This is best understood here as “take up,” as in the KJV
 - The sense here is “I will take in my hands the cup of salvation.”
- *“Cup of salvation”*
 - “Salvation” suggests God’s gift to man, not man’s gift to God.
 - It is the opposite of the “cup of wrath” that we deserve (Psalm 75:8).
 - It is freely offered, displaying the pattern of the Gospel.
 - Lifting up the cup of salvation can be understood as surrendering to God’s mercy.
- In this surrender, the redeemed *“call on the name of the Lord.”*
 - Jonah 2:9 – *“Salvation comes from the LORD.”*
 - Romans 10:13 – *“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”*

** The redeemed respond to the miracle of mercy by surrendering to the call of the call of the Spirit and calling upon Christ in our affliction.

- *How can we repay the Lord for all of His goodness to us?*

2.) The redeemed show up. (v. 14)

- Psalm of Summer: Now it came to pass that spring turned to summer again. God’s people raised their voices and said:

Recreation is my shepherd, I shall not stay at home;
 He maketh me to lie down in a sleeping bag;
 He leadeth me down the Interstate each weekend.
 He restoreth my suntan;
 He leadeth me to State Parks for comfort’s sake.

Even though I stray on the Lord’s Day, I will fear no reprimand, for Thou art with me;

My rod and reel they comfort me.

I anointest my skin with oil, my gas tank runneth dry;

Surely my trailer shall follow me all the weekends this summer, and I shall return to the House of the Lord this fall.

But then it is hunting season and that's another psalm...

-- Some people don't need much of an excuse to stay home from church. If it even looks like it might rain, they don't want to risk getting a little wet. The hymn writer Frances Havergal gave several reasons for attending church—especially on rainy days.

1. God has blessed the Lord's Day, making no exceptions for stormy days.
2. I expect my minister to be there. I would be surprised if he stayed at home because of the weather.
3. I might lose out on the prayers and the sermon that would have done me great good.
4. For important business, rain doesn't keep me home; and church is, in God's sight, very important.
5. Bad weather...will prove how much I love Christ. True love rarely fails to keep an appointment.
6. Those who stay home from church because it's rainy frequently miss on fair Sundays too. I must not take one step in that direction.
7. I don't know how many more Sundays God may give me. It would be poor preparation for my first Sunday in heaven to have slighted my last one on earth.

-- v. 14 – Notice where the Psalmist vows to fulfill his vows: *“In the presence of the people.”*

-- Not alone, not ashamed, but in the presence of God's people.

-- Not occasionally or sporadically. Fulfilling our vows to the Lord requires much more than partial commitment or sporadic attendance

-- Hebrews 10:25 – *“Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”*

** The redeemed respond to the miracle of mercy by faithfully attending church services.

-- *How can we repay the Lord for all of His goodness to us?*

3.) The redeemed strive for heaven. (v. 15)

-- *“Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.”*

-- At first, this seems like a rather odd statement to make in the midst of declaring his great joy in doing his all to respond to the Lord’s goodness.

-- But upon reflection, it makes great sense.

-- The Psalmist is looking forward. His gaze is set upon eternity.

-- His focus is fixed upon the great day upon which the Lord he loves will look upon the manner in which he fulfilled his vows in the presence of the people and say, “Well done, good and faithful servant.”

-- He is excitedly anticipating the honor and praise he can bring to God through his faithfulness and devotion.

-- 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 – *“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”*

** The redeemed respond to the miracle of mercy by living for heaven, not for earth.

-- *How can we repay the Lord for all of His goodness to us?*

4.) The redeemed serve. (v. 16)

I read a story recently about the restoration of a church's 130-year-old organ, which had been delayed because four of its delicate pipes were damaged when a churchgoer napped on them. The 18-foot pipes he damaged were among about 50 that were stored in the basement at First Church in Northampton during the sanctuary's renovation. The Rev. Peter Ives estimates the damage at close to

\$15,000... The snoozing man apparently mistook the pipes for rolled-up rugs and slept on them.

In the same way, the revival of the church in general that God desires to usher in through His people will be hindered, even damaged, if we fall asleep on the job. Let us not mistake the church as a place for lethargy, but rather an opportunity to diligently serve God for His glory and the advancement of His kingdom through us His servants.

-- v. 16

-- “*Servant*” here could just as easily be translated “slave.”

-- “*You have freed me from my chains*” – The voluntary bonds of service are stronger than the broken bonds of death.

-- We have been saved to serve God.

-- Ephesians 2:10 – *For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

-- We are gifted to serve God.

-- 1 Peter 4:10 – *Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.*

-- All of us are using our time, talents, and treasures to serve something...

-- In response to God’s mercy, the redeemed use them to serve the Lord.

** The redeemed respond to the miracle of mercy by humbly serving the Lord in whichever way He calls.

-- *How can we repay the Lord for all of His goodness to us.*

5.) The redeemed smile. (v. 17)

-- v. 17 – Literally, “A sacrifice of thanksgiving”

-- This was an offering made simply to give thanks to God.

-- 1 Thessalonians 5:18 – “*Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*”

-- Grumpy faces don’t give glory to God.

-- Miracle on 34th St. – “Santa don’t got a grumpy face.”

-- What kind of message does that send about the redemption we have received?

-- How could that possibly bring people to Christ?

-- We submit, surrender, show up, strive for heaven, and serve not out of compulsion, but out of love, joy, and thanksgiving to God...because we are so overwhelmed about the mercy we have received.

** The redeemed respond to the miracle of mercy by intentionally living joyful, thankful lives.

-- v. 18-19 – These verses strongly reemphasize that all of this must happen in the courts of the Lord and in the presence of God's people.

-- Present the Gospel

-- The redeemed respond to this marvelous message of Christ by submitting to the truth, surrendering to the call of the Spirit, showing up in the sanctuary, striving for heaven, serving the Lord, and smiling with thanksgiving.

-- *How are you responding to the miracle of mercy?*