

thankful all over again

"Ooh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! for His mercy endures forever." 1 chron 16:34

i believe we are thankful in direct proportion to how much we realize the holiness of God. when mooses asked to see God's glory, God said, "I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before you." exo 33:19

"therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. but to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little." luke 7:47 the trouble is, most of us feel we are fairly decent people. we are not really that bad. that's only because we have not revelation of how good God is. His goodness makes Him holy.

God relates His goodness to His glory. when isaiah entered into the presence of the Lord he proclaimed: "woe is me, for i am undone! because i am a man of unclean lips, and i dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts." isa 6:5 in other words, as if his sin wasn't bad enough, he was constantly being contaminated by the sin around him.

i don't think any of us have a true revelation of just how far we have actually fallen from God's "goodness." when man was first created they lived thousands of years. through the millennia their life has gradually decreased proportionately. now, the fruit has ripened. sin has fully matured. it is time for the fruit to

fall to the ground and it's seed to live again.

where that seed will be planted depends entirely upon whether or not we have a revelation of God's goodness. the closer we draw to God the more of His holiness is revealed. regrettably, some people have no desire to glimpse His nature. but to those who do, to them it has been given "exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." 2 pet 1:4

"when You said, 'seek My face,' my heart said to You, 'Your face, Lord, i will seek.'" psa 27:8 we shall not only see Him as He is, we shall "partake" of His divine nature. His goodness shall flow again in the chosen ones. right now in this life, we make a feeble attempt to measure up to His nature, but we never can. it is an act of grace and believing in His "great and precious" promises that will one day bring it to pass.

now the fruit has ripened. where will it's seed be planted? have you fought the good fight? have you finished the race? have you kept the faith? then finally there is laid up for you a crown of righteousness. grace shall prevail!

i urge each of us to look again; first at ourselves and then at our God - whoever he may be. that is our destiny. like begets like. i choose to look at Jesus and the life He led, while others look towards satan through self. do i measure up? no. i never will. but God - but goodness - but grace; it will prevail. i am thankful all over again, because when i look into

the mirror i see Jesus looking back at me.

take a glimpse. what image do you see looking back at you? examine yourself. look hard and deep. do you love self above God?