

What Shall I Render To The Lord?

Psalms 116:12-19

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Though David's life was filled with times of trouble, grief, and disappointment, he never forgot all that God had done for him.

Psalms 103:2-5

Psalms 40:5

David then pondered the **responsibility** that he bore to God ...

Psalms 116:12

"What shall I render to the LORD, for all His benefits toward me?"

Render: to turn back, return to starting point, give back, relinquish, give in payment.
2 Chronicles 32:25; Matthew 22:21

Psalms 116:13-19 – David's answer:

- **Lift up the cup of salvation** – honor to God for His salvation.
- **Call on the name of the Lord** – Acts 22:16
- **Pay my vows in the presence of all His people** – do what we commit to. Ecclesiastes 5:4
- **Precious is the death of His saints** – focus on the life to come. Philippians 1:21ff
- **I am your servant** – Luke 1:38
- **Offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving** – Philippians 4:6
- **Praise the Lord** – Psalms 145:1-3

What can we render to the Lord for all that He has done for us?

A far different perspective than what (else) can I get out of it?

Religion has somehow been transformed from returning back to God to "what else can God do for me?"

What Shall We Render To The Lord?

We can render acceptable and reverent worship to Him.

- David was glad to have the opportunity to go to the Lord's house and offer praise and worship unto Him (**Psalm 122:1**).
- We also can, and should, look forward and make adequate preparations to assemble with the saints and offer worship that is "*in spirit and in truth*" (**John 4:24**) at every opportunity.
- It should never be a burden (**1 John 5:3**) to set aside time in our life to "*turn back to give glory to God*" (**Luke 17:18**).

We can render our thanksgiving ...

- Good parents teach their children to say thank you ...
- A lack of thanksgiving is the first step towards apostasy. **Romans 1:20-21**
- It's a way of life. **Hebrews 13:15**
- It's God's will. **1 Thessalonians 5:18**
- Context. **1 Thessalonians 5:18**

We can render our love ...

- Serving out of more than just duty (**Luke 17:10**) and fear (**1 John 4:18**).
- **1 John 4:7-12** – He started it!
- What does this passage invite us to do?

We can render our talents and abilities for His sake.

- We *all* have talents and abilities ...
 - **Matthew 25:14ff**
- Two dangers
 - Overestimate our talents
 - Underestimate our talents
- Be useful ... **2 Timothy 2:21**.
- Bear fruit, be a positive influence and shed light. **John 15:5, 8, 16; Matthew 5:13-16**

We can fulfill our commitment to Him.

- Note the context of **Psalm 116:12ff**
 - We can fulfill our commitment to the Lord ... to the end. cf. **Revelation 2:10**
- Fulfill our commitment that Jesus is our Lord. **Luke 6:46**
- Without making excuses. **Luke 14:15-24**

We can share with others the good news of what God has done for us.

- "It'll cost you" – Do for others what others have done for you. **2 Timothy 2:2**
- Practice – Study – Teach. **Ezra 7:10**
- "*We are not doing right. This day is a day of good news, but we are keeping silent; if we wait until morning light, punishment will overtake us.*" **2 Kings 7:3-15** (verse 9)

We can give of our time.

- The command is to spend it wisely! **Ephesians 5:15-17**
- How many hours in your day?
- Does God like leftovers? **Malachi 1:8-13**, *"Should I receive that from your hand?"*

We can give of our blessings.

- As with our time, do we put first things first?
- The law of first fruits.
- All things are His. **James 1:17**
- Giving some back ...
 - **1 Corinthians 16:1-2; 2 Corinthians 8:1-6; 9:6-8**

We Can, And Must, Give God First Place!!!

"... seek first His kingdom and His righteousness ..."

- **Matthew 6:33**

But beyond anything else, God desires most of all is that we render our own self to Him.

- What must we render before anything else?
 - **2 Corinthians 8:5**, "... they first gave themselves to the Lord ..."
 - A "transformed" life. (**Mark 12:30; Romans 12:1-2**)
 - Present Imperative – Continuous and repeated action.

What's The Most Important Thing You Can Render To The Lord?

Won't you render your obedience to Him today?