

“THANK GOD FOR HIS ABUNDANCE”  
Text: Psalm 36:5-10 Thanksgiving, 2014

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### INTRODUCTION:

1) Abundance is in God's nature: Three of the mostly used attributes of God: Omnipresence, omniscience and omnipotence, all start with the prefix: omni which means “all, full and complete.” God is much more than any word in any language can subscribe to his nature. “Abundant” is used here just to give us a glimpse into the immeasurable nature of God and all about him.

2) God's abundance is very important: It is important not just in the nature of God, but everything God has done. It is also important to distinguish our God as the Almighty, compared to any and all other deities man had made. It is also very important to us, as God's children, and all aspects of our everyday life. Since today is Thanksgiving Sunday, let us examine areas the abundance of God have to do with our everyday life:

### 1) THE ABUNDANCE OF GOD IN CREATION:

a) The nature of God in creation: “God saw all that he had created, and it was very good.” (Gen. 1:31) With all the world religions in human history, no one dared to ascribe their god or gods as creator of anything, except in the Christian Bible. This sets our God apart and way above any and all deities of all religions: our God is the sole creator of everything in the universe we now see and not see. This includes all other gods all religions had created in their human vision of god. If anyone who is sincerely seeking to believe in God, he doesn't have to seek or search any more. God is here for him.

b) The creation and human race: “The Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breathe of life and the man became a living soul.” (Gen. 2:7) God created man after he had created everything to meet the needs of man. Scientist told us countless wonders of God's creation from the galaxies to the physical world, from the complexity of the human body to the movements of the universe. With the advance of scientific knowledge we have today, to the potential knowledge in the future, we see the seamless wisdom of God in his magnificent creation of all things.

### 2) THE ABUNDANCE OF GOD IN LOVE:

a) The nature of God in love: “For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believed in him shall not perish but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16) Among all the attributes of God, theologians

suggested that the most important one is the love of God. It is the love of God that caused him to create the universe and mankind. It is his love that he sent his Son to die on the cross so man may find his way back to God. It is his love so we are allowed to survive, to live and to bear witness for Him. If we take love out of God, there is no meaning nor purpose to have a god.

b) The love of God and human race: Throughout the Bible and human history, men were born, have lived to enjoy all the good things that God had created, provided. God also created, provided and given human race all they need to live in this world. Above all else, God demonstrated his love to us by sending his Son to die on the cross so we may be saved through our faith. The Bible says: “God demonstrated his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Rom 5:8)

### 3) THE ABUNDANCE OF GOD IN WISDOM:

a) The nature of God in wisdom: “But to those whom God has called both Jews and Gentiles, Christ is the power and wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than the wisdom of man, and the weakness of God is stronger than the strength of man.” (1 Cor 1:24-25) Here Paul was talking about the wisdom of God in his design of the path of salvation so man by his faith in Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Besides the plan of salvation, the wisdom of God is seen in all things he had created. “For since the creation of the world, God's invisible quality, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been created, so that men are without excuses.” (Rom 1:20)

b) The wisdom of God and human race: “For since the creation of the world, God's invisible qualities, his eternal power and divine nature have been clearly seen, being understood from what he has made, so men are without excuse.” (Romans 1:20) Paul talked about the wisdom of God in creation so man can't argue he doesn't know God. In our everyday life, we also need the wisdom of God to lead our way. James advised his readers this way: “If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.” (1:5) Being human, we are limited by our nature, and lacking wisdom is one in human nature. Whenever we come to a place we don't know which way to turn, what to choose, where to go, we can always come to God to seek his wisdom for guidance. As Prophet Isaiah advised the Israelis in 30:21, “Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you saying: This is the way, walk in it.” The wisdom of God will lead the path of your life in

the right way.

#### 4) THE ABUNDANCE OF GOD AND GRACE:

a) The nature of God and grace: “The Lord is compassionate and full of grace, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever.” (Psalm 103:8-9) Grace is one of God's nature that has tremendous impact in the way He treats us sinners. The Bible defines God as full of compassion and grace as a father has to his children. Grace is something that can only be given but not earned; it's not something deserved, but something from love and generosity. The Bible has so much to say about God's grace in relating to us, his people. No one may do anything to earn anything from God, but everything we have or are given is by His grace.

b) God's grace and our salvation: “For it is by grace you have been saved through faith, and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by work (of man) that no one can boast.” (Eph 2:8-9) This is about the effect of God's grace on us, sinful human race. It is because of God's grace, we are forgiven and saved, completely away from any human merit, so no one may boast of his salvation. Many of God's attributes are related to human race like grace and forgiveness, apart from those related to his nature like His holiness and righteousness. Without grace of God, no man may come close to be saved.

#### 5) THE ABUNDANCE OF GOD IN FORGIVING:

a) Our God is a forgiving God: “Seek ye the Lord while He may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thought. Let him turn to the Lord, for he will freely (abundantly) pardon.” (Isaiah 55:6-7) King David described the nature of God in forgiving our sins more fully in Psalm 103:10-13. Forgiveness is the second most important attribute of God next to his love. Since no man may do enough good on his depraved nature to meet the requirements of God for salvation, all men need to be forgiven by God of their sins. Because God is forgiving our sins, we are sure of salvation instead of hanging in uncertainty of trying human efforts as it is in all other religions.

b) God's forgiveness and human needs: “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9) This is about the effectiveness of God's forgiveness in the cleansing, purifying and removal of our sins based on the forgiving nature of God. It is only through the forgiveness of our sins by a loving God, that we may be granted the status of salvation because there is no other way anyone

may be justified in the presence of a righteous God.

#### 6) THE ABUNDANCE OF GOD IN PROVISION:

a) God is the sole owner and provider: Being the sole creator of the universe and everything in it, God is also the sole owner of the universe and all things in it. This is one of the most difference between our God and all the gods of all religions which ascribe their deities as created being. This puts God in the position of discharging things he had created for the needs of his creation from the natural world to the human race. Unlike deities of religions who need a support system for their existence, functioning, our God provides to all from his creation. Scientific reports on the wonders of the movement of the universe, the physical world, the human body and countless others shows the power of God in providing all necessary elements to sustain the universe.

b) God always provides us the best: “If you, though are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him?” (Matt 7:11) This is a direct answer to the many requests on material needs of everyday life in 6:24-34. Jesus gives an answer to the worries of his people on material needs: “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.” (Matt 7:7-8) Providential care of God is a big subject and it is the basis of our faith in God for his provision of our needs, may not be our wants. As King David says in Psalm 23:1, “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.” God provides more than our material needs, he also provides our spiritual and emotional needs much more than we may imagine. Jesus reminds us in Matt 6:33, “Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be given to you as well.”

#### 7) THE ABUNDANCE OF GOD IN LIFE:

a) God's abundance in present life: “The Lord is the everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understand no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall bu those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” (Isaiah 40:28-31) This is part of a message God sent to the Israelis in exile to assure them of God's strength and hope in their life when hope was hard to find. Jesus promised the people of God's care and provision

in this present life: “Seek fir the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be given to you as well.” (Matt 6:33)

b) God's abundance in eternal life: “You also were included in Christ when you heard the word of the truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked with a seal, the promise of the Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession, to the praise of His glory.” (Eph 1:13-14) For believers of God, inheritance of God is more than barely saved of our souls, but richly rewarded and blessed with heavenly endowment no one may imagine. People who put their faith in God, believe in His Son Jesus Christ, God promised top give them much more than just saved to be in heaven, but inheritance from his immeasurable abundance. Any and all worldly inheritance will fade and lose value in time, and none of them may be brought to heaven. Jesus has prepared a place for all his believers, and he will come back to bring us to be with him in heaven to enjoy God's richness forever.

## CONCLUSION:

1) This is a good time to thank God: Just as the primary reason of the first Thanksgiving celebrated by the early immigrants---to give thanks to God for all his blessings on them and harvest of the land, we are to be thankful to God for all his blessings on us in many ways. With all the abundant nature of God, he has provided us with so much resources, opportunities, endowments in ways beyond our control, that we have what we have today. Be human before God and be thankful for all his abundant blessing in your life and the lives of those dear to you.

2) It is also a good time to thank others: As in the message I presented to the church on Oct 19, Paul never forgot all the helps his faithful fellow servant of the Lord, by listing their names and counted the loving contribution they had helped him in his ministry of the gospel, we, Christians and non-Christians are never to forget all those people who had helped you, provided for you, go that extra mile with you, lend their hands when you are weak, encouraged you when you faced insurmountable obstacles. Call them, write a letter or an email, use the best way you know how to express your heart felt gratitude to their good will, sacrifices, love and hard work, so you may become who you are and what hyou have today.

