



"I will give you thanks, Lord!"

There is a unique chapter in the book of Psalms. It sits in between the longest chapter in the Bible, Psalm 119, and the shortest chapter, Psalm 117. More importantly, Psalm 118 is the last of the Hallel psalms (113-118); for this reason, we know it was the psalm which our Lord sang with His disciples the night before His death. Matthew 26:30 reads, "When they had sung a hymn, they went out..." This is what makes this psalm so very impactful and significant to us. Jesus sung this knowing full well what the next day would bring. He did it with complete knowledge that God's mercy would be tested to the utmost.

It begins and ends with these words: "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever." The psalmist goes on, "Let Israel say...Let the house of Aaron say...Let those who fear the Lord say, 'His love endures forever.'" Let Nick Reynolds say, "His love endures forever." Let's read on in verses 5-7: "When hard pressed, I cried to the Lord; He brought me into a spacious place. The Lord is with me; I will not be afraid...The Lord is with me; He is my helper."

How comforting and true are these words. This is the time of year to reflect on and celebrate His goodness and love that He has poured over us. He rescued me when I was at my absolute worst. He delivered me and brought me to a place called Dunklin. The enemy encircled my soul and death was imminent, yet 'the Lord is good and His love endures forever.'

Verses 13-15 clarify the progression of the story: "I was pushed back and about to fall, but the Lord helped me. The Lord is my strength and my defense; He has become my salvation. Shouts of joy and victory resound in the tents of the righteous: The Lord's right hand has done mighty things!"

We are full of joy as we have witnessed victory over the enemy in so many lives this year. We are grateful for the men shown above who recently graduated. At one time, they too were obstinate, refusing the Lord and His loving-kindness. Their hearts were hard and they did not fear the Lord; however, 'the Lord's right hand has done mighty things!'

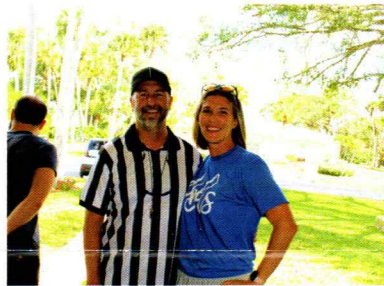
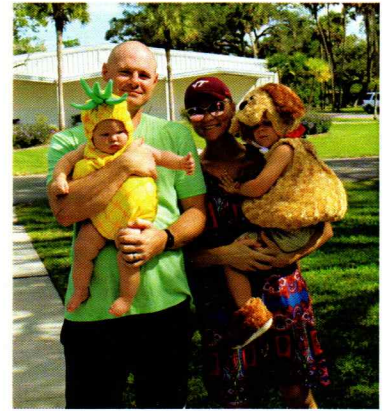
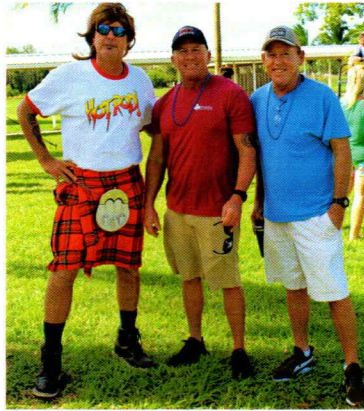
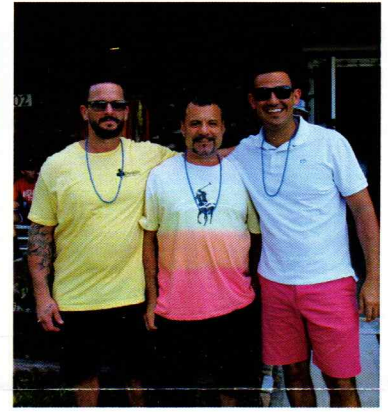
"The Lord has done it this very day; let us rejoice today and be glad...The Lord is God, and He has made His light shine on us." It is good to stop and give thanks, recognizing His powerful works and loving deeds. We are a blessed people because of Him. In verses 21 and 23, he emphasizes this point: "I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation...the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes."

May we all take the time this season to recognize our God, put Him in His rightful place, and proclaim what He has done. We would like to thank all of you for being a part of Dunklin and having a heart for what the Lord does in this place. Each year comes with challenges and new obstacles, but He always grants us victory and success in Him! Together, let all of us proclaim, "You are my God, and I will praise you; you are my God, and I will exalt you."

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever!

Nick

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**FOR HIS LOVE
ENDURES FOREVER**
Psalm 118:1