



November 2018

Dear Friends,

Psalm 118 is one of the lesser known psalms, but you may recognize portions of it. For example, verse 24 is often used as a call to worship and has been turned into a song:

*This is the day that the Lord has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

After Jesus raised the ire of the religious authorities by telling several parables that appeared to be aimed at them, he quoted from verse 22:

*The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the chief cornerstone. (Mt. 21:42)*

And when Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem for the last time, the gospel writers quoted from verse 26 to describe the exclamations of the crowds:

*Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. (Mt. 21:9)*

Perhaps the reason why people have turned to Psalm 118 is because it is a psalm of thanksgiving. It expresses gratitude for God's loving presence in both good and bad times. The psalm begins and ends with these words:

*O give thanks to the Lord, who is good;  
for God's steadfast love endures for ever!*

The psalm describes a God who responds in times of distress. When we find ourselves in the troubled waters of physical or mental anguish, God hears our cries and brings us safely home.

For Christians, thanksgiving has a special meaning. Psalm 118 expresses the source of our thanksgiving. We are always thankful because *God's steadfast love endures forever!*

Gratefully yours,

*Gary*