

Wednesday Reflection Isaiah 12:1-8

12You will say in that day: I will give thanks to you, O Lord, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, and you comforted me. ²Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. ³With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

⁴And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted. ⁵Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. ⁶Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

By this time of the Christmas season, when we were young, we would have been made to sit down and write the "Thank you" letters for the presents we had received a few days earlier. If it was left any longer we might have forgotten which gift we had received from whom.

Would you have been on the Father Christmas good or naughty list as a youngster? Did the presents you received reflect that place? Of course for most of us our Christmas gifts would have been far more humble than many children receive today and feel it is their right to receive regardless of their behaviour.

Saying "thank you" is so important, not just saying the words but meaning it from the depth of our being.

"Give thanks to the Lord,, make known his deeds among the nations." Do we remember all that God has done for us and offered our thanks to him?

At the end of a difficult year how have you given thanks to God? The season around Christmas is one that must be a time of Thanksgiving "for the Lord God is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation." In Jesus we have fully revealed to us the message of our salvation.

In terms of God would we be on the good or naughty list?

There seems to be a feeling that we deserve only good things from God but Isaiah proclaimed that God had the right to be angry with us. Yet God turned from his anger and offered comfort, strengthening.

As 2020 draws to a close we shall have many articles in newspapers, on the Internet and on TV that will remind us of the things that have happened in the country and across the world. Some of these events will still be in our mind but other parts we had forgotten about.

In years gone by many Methodist's gathered on New Year's Eve not for a party but for a Watchnight Service, to see out the old and mark the beginning of the new with an awareness of God with us.

These days between Christmas and the New Year are good time to sit down and review our own year. We will think rightly of those painful times we have been through, and might even be going through; in the midst of these times can we recall also the good times? Can we recall those times when God has strengthened us to keep going? Can we recall all that God has done for us?

There are probably many problems and difficulties we never actually experienced for God had been ahead of us. I remember when I was a Boys' Brigade Chaplain at Summer Camp discovering that one night I had been sleeping through a storm whilst the officers were securing the tent pegs of the tent in which I was sleeping so soundly. It taught me of how God is active around and about me unseen and without me being aware of the danger from which I was being protected.

Give thanks to the Lord and tell others of the good things he has done for you; above all give thanks for the gift of salvation received through faith in Jesus.