

5 January 2014: Preached by Elder John Leong

Topic: **New Year 2014 Challenge: What shall I render unto the LORD for all his benefits toward me? (Psalm 116:12)**

Scripture Text: Psalm 116

1. The Psalmist in verse 12 asked himself a very important question which deserves a reply to God. If we can ask ourselves this same question everyday in this new year and answer it, we can surely grow in the Lord spiritually this new year.

2. The question of “What shall I render unto the LORD for all his benefits toward me?” must come from our heart automatically and not because someone or the Church asked us to answer it. This question is also not for us to compare answers to see who can produce the perfect answer. This question can only come from someone who has a thankful and grateful heart to God. An unbeliever will never ask this question at all as this question is directed towards “The LORD” and not towards men.

3. This question can come forth from our hearts when we remember what the Lord has done for us with all His benefits and blessing showered on us. Our problem is that we forget God’s goodness. For the Psalmist, he remembers God answering his prayers in hearing his voice (v.1); he remembers God preserving his life from death (v.3,8); he remembers God helping and lifting him in his low points in life (v.6b); and he remembers how God forgave his sin in his haste with wrong judgment (v.11). In this remembrance, the Psalmist saw how kind and good God has treated him and he wanted to repay God’s goodness in gratitude. Surely, every believer can testify with the same experience of receiving God’s goodness to us. What then is our response back to God?

4. The question deserves a response to God. For the Psalmist, his response was one of gratitude. His first response was to proclaim he loves the Lord (v.1). We love the Lord because He first loves us. The second response was his commitment to walk before the Lord. To walk before the Lord, we must commit to do our daily QT and to honour the Lord’s day in worship and to serve the Lord faithfully. The 3rd response was that the Psalmist will take the cup of salvation (v.13). He will declare the salvation of God and not keep silent about it. The 4th response was the Psalmist will keep his vows to the Lord (v.14).

5. Each one of us will need to have our own response to the Lord for all His benefits rendered to us. This is to show our sincere gratitude to the Lord. But we must remember that whatever we render back to the Lord, it will never be enough to repay what God has done for us.