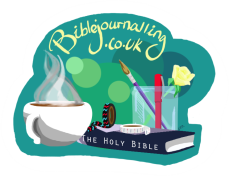
**Thanks for the gift of Jesus**

* 1 Corinthians 15:57
* Romans 6:23
* Romans 8:1-2
* Psalm 118: 21-24
* Psalm 136

Biblically, the ultimate reason for giving thanks is Jesus, God’s incredible gift! Through him we have grace on earth, mercy when dying and eternal peace in heaven. We are totally free from condemnation (Romans 8:1-2). That’s a good reason for giving thanks!

In the course of our everyday life on earth it can be hard to grasp just how great a gift salvation through Christ actually is. On this side of the divide we are bound to see things on earthly terms ‘through the glass darkly’ (1 Cor 13:12). It’s hard to imagine the full benefits of salvation. The Bible assures us that victory over sin and death given us by Christ is cause for thanksgiving indeed! Write 1 Cor 15:57 in your journal. Decorate around it and ask God to show you what this means. Then give thanks. You Do the same with Romans 6:23 or Romans 8:1-2.

Psalm 118:21-24 is a good summary of the gift of Christ in the context of salvation history. He is the fulfilment of all the prayers of Israel for release from bondage and slavery – not in the way they expected, but God knew the needs of humankind better than they did. To bring about all that was needed, Jesus endured rejection, betrayal and death (Psalm 118:22, quoted in 2 Peter 2:7). Yet that was not the end of the story and we can say with the Psalmist: Thanks be to God for he is good, his love endures forever!

Choose Psalm 118 or 136 and read it through. What stands out for you? Focus in on a verse or phrase and write it in your journal. Create a page around it and use this as the focus of your thanks. Ask God to show you more of his love in Jesus in the days ahead and to fill your heart with gratitude and thanksgiving every day.