**Moving Forward:  2024 What Lies Ahead**

(Psalm 34:1-10)

**INTRODUCTION**

1.  This next part of the series is, **“Moving Forward:  2024 What Lies Ahead”**

2.  Story of the woman whose child was sick….

3.  There is such a spirit of fear and uncertainty that surrounds the world today, and if

      we are not careful, we can be “caught up” and discouraged by what we see

      happening in our world today (Isa. 5:20).

      a.   God, speaking to Isaiah was NOT speaking to people of the “world” but to the

            condition that had become common among His own people who had lost sight of

            what was true, and good, and right (Prov. 14:12; 16:25)

      b.  We may not know exactly what 2024 is going to be like, but what we do have is in

            the knowing of who God is, and that His nature is the very essence of His

            goodness.

**DAVID HAD TO RUN FOR HIS LIFE**

1.  King Saul because so jealous of God’s blessing of David that he had to run for his life

      (I Sam 23:13, 14)

      a.   It got so bad that David felt more safe hiding among the Philistines than he did

            among his own people because of Saul trying to kill him.

      b.  He actually pretended insanity when hiding in the area of King Abimelech (I Sam.

            21:13, 15).

2.  Psalm 34 was written during this difficult period of David’s life.

      a.   Did he complain about his situation?  He could have.

      b.  Did he express bitterness about where he was at this time of his life?  He could

            have.

      c.   Instead, David in this Psalm, proclaims the very essence and “goodness” of God.

**THE GOODNESS OF GOD IS HIS VERY NATURE**

1.  The nature of God is pictured by His character of being “gracious, merciful,

      compassionate, and loving”—the expression of His “goodness” (Exod. 34:6).

      a.  God abounds in these attributes of His character (Psalm 86:15).

      b.  His mercy is an expression of how “grace” works (Psalm. 111:4).

            1)  The “grace” of God is the realm where His “mercy” is extended to us, to

                  prevent us from receiving what we may deserve.

            2)  It is “faith” that places us into the realm where God’s “grace” operates (Eph.

                  2:8, 9).

2.  God’s purpose for His New Covenant people is that of entering into a genuine

      relationship that is molded an shaped into the “image” of Christ (Rom. 8:28, 29).

**DAVID EXPRESSES HIS ATTITUDE**

1.  Even though David was in an impossible situation, he said he would bless the Lord

      “at ALL times” (Psa. 34:1-3)

2.  He spent time with God in prayer about his situation (Psa. 34:4).

3.  David believed in God’s power to bring deliverance (Psa. 34:7).

4.  David believed that those who serve and honor God are never lacking (Psa. 34:10).

5.  David understood that dependence upon God is a genuine reflection of the heart

      (Psalm. 34:17-19)

**2024 A YEAR OF REFLECTION OF GOD’S GOODNESS**

1.  People all around us are struggling with the circumstances and situations of life an

      often there appears to be no hope, no way out, no answer.

2.  God is calling each of us, to become a genuine reflection of God’s nature.

3.  Think about each of the areas mentioned by David while he saw his own life in

      danger from a King that had no regard for his life.

4.  We may not know exactly what the coming year will bring, but we can rest assured

      that He has kept all of His promises and fulfilled all of His Word and that we can

      trust Him with EVERY area of our lives.

5.  God’s goodness is in the “land of the living” (Psalm 27:13)

6.  When Israel came together to hear the word of the Lord, Aaron always pronounced

      God’s blessing on them (Num 6:22-27).