

Giving Thanks to God Always in All Things

Compiled by Paul R. Blake

Introduction:

- A. We are often told to give thanks to God.
 - 1. 1Thes. 5:18 - "in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."
 - 2. Eph. 5:20 - "giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ"
 - 3. Col. 1:12 - "giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light."
 - 4. Col. 3:17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.
 - 5. Heb. 13:15 - "Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name"
- B. Are we clear on what God means?
 - 1. "In" - within, among, with, by means of; seldom translated "for"
 - a. We are immersed in, surrounded by, covered up with the gifts and blessings
 - 2. "Give thanks" - "eucharisteo"- a verb; return thanks or be thankful
 - a. It is an exchange; it does not matter that our thanks are a poor trade for the blessing, or that the words are inadequate, it is the necessary and right response to a gift
 - b. It is an honorable courtesy - "In accepting the gift graciously, you honor the giver" - Stephen R. Donaldson.
 - c. It reveals our character - "A man's indebtedness is not virtue; his repayment is. Virtue begins when he dedicates himself actively to the job of gratitude." - Ruth Benedict
 - d. It is a commandment
- C. You have every reason to be thankful to God
 - 1. "I am very busy and forget to thank God."
 - a. "God gave you a gift of 86,400 seconds today. Have you used one to say thank you?" - William A. Ward
 - 2. "God knows I am thankful." Or, "I don't have say thanks for everything."
 - a. "Silent gratitude isn't much use to anyone." - G.B. Stern
 - b. "There is no such thing as gratitude unexpressed. If it is unexpressed, it is plain, old-fashioned ingratitude." Robert Brault
 - 3. "I haven't had much to be thankful for lately."
 - a. The Pilgrims made seven times more graves than huts. No Americans have ever been more impoverished than these who, nevertheless, set aside a day of thanksgiving. H. Westermayer

I. WHAT IS TRUE THANKSGIVING?

- A. True Thanksgiving is not a mere litany of words but is an active response to the goodness or hardship which God engineers in your life.
 - 1. "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." John F. Kennedy

2. "Gratitude is an art of painting an adversity into a lovely picture." Kak Sri
- B. God permits both good and bad circumstances for two reasons:
 1. To glorify His Name
 2. To help us to mature in the faith

II. TRUE THANKFULNESS

- A. 1Chron. 16:7-10 - Is related to our verbal testimony
 1. Do we really believe the only thing we must confess with our mouth is that Jesus is the Son of God?!
 2. 1Tim. 2:1; Heb. 13:15
- B. Neh. 12:27-43; Psalm 35:18 - is related to our worship
 1. 1Cor. 14:16-17 - It was an integral part of New Testament worship
- C. Psalm 18:49 - is related to evangelism.
 1. 2Cor. 9:10-15 - And opens the door to the Gospel today
- D. Psalm 92:1 - is a beneficial expression of our adoration of God
 1. Col. 1:12, 2:7
- E. Dan. 6:10 - is related to our obedience regardless of circumstances
 1. Phil. 4:6-7
- F. Psalm 107 - is related to our mortality
 1. 1Cor. 15:57
- G. Psalm 44:4-8 - is a manifestation of our faith in God
 1. 1Thes. 2:12-13

Conclusion:

- A. There is no greater difference between men than between grateful and ungrateful people.
- B. Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it.
 1. Just as faith without works is dead, so it is that gratitude without offering thanksgiving is dead, being alone