

THANKSGIVING
November 2019

FIVE REASONS TO GIVE THANKS

INTRODUCTION

Thanksgiving is an expression of gratitude shown to God the Father by the grace believer for a benefit received. That benefit can be food; a spiritual gift; circumstances (good or bad) or even another believer. The apostle Paul talked about thanksgiving more than any other New Testament writer. The church at Thessalonica was the recipient of much of his thanksgiving. Scripture teaches that the spiritual grace believer will have an attitude of thankfulness. This message covers five reasons why the believer should give thanks.

- I. THANKSGIVING IS THE PRIMARY WAY OF COMMUNICATING WITH GOD AND EXPERIENCING PEACE. Phil. 4:6
 - A. The conjunction “but” is used to indicate the contrast of anxiousness. vers. 6
 1. The verb form used to translate anxious is merimnao which is used in Scripture of ***being overly concerned about the provision of the necessities of life; or the outcomes involving the circumstances of life.*** -- K.D. J. cf. Matt. 6:25-28
 2. Believers are told to be anxious for not one thing. vs. 6
 - B. Three forms of communication are indicated to combat anxiousness. vs. 6
 1. “Prayer” (worship)
 2. “Supplication”
 3. “Thanksgiving”
 - C. Three prepositions are important in understanding verse 6
 1. The preposition “in”
 2. The preposition “with” (meta)
 3. The preposition “to” (pros -- towards/facing) God.
 - D. The result of thanksgiving and other forms of communication with God is the *peace of God*, an unruffledness of mind. vs.7
- II. THANKSGIVING IS THE WILL OF GOD FOR BELIEVERS. 1st Thess. 5:18
 - A. God has a desirous will for the life of each believer *in Christ*.
 - B. The grace believer should give thanks *in everything*.
 1. The phrase “in everything” is a phrase used to note various types of situations. cf. 2 Co. 6:4-5 (in pressure situations); 2 Co. 8:7 (in positive situations)
 2. Believers have the promise of God’s grace in all things. 2 Co. 9:8,11
- III. THANKSGIVING GLORIFIES GOD. 2 Co. 4:15

- A. Paul suffered to deliver the Word of God's grace to believers. vs.15 (8-9; Col. 1:23-24)
- B. The gratitude of the grace believers, due to Paul's teachings, brings glory to God. vs.15

IV. THANKSGIVING AIDS THE BELIEVER IN CONDUCTING A QUIET AND PEACEABLE LIFE. 1st Tim. 2:1

- A. An expression of gratitude for *worldly leaders* helps the believer to lead a *quite life*, denotes a *quietness arising from the absence of outward disturbance, keeping oneself aloof from political agitations and freedoms from persecutions* – Weust (ill. Acts 21:14)
- B. An expression of gratitude for all men helps the believer to lead a *peaceable life, a tranquility of mind that puts others at ease* – Weust. (ill. 1 Pet. 3:4; Lk. 14:4)

V. THANKSGIVING IS A SUBSTITUTE FOR TALK THAT LACKS IN CHARACTER. Eph. 5:4

- A. Believers are not to be *characterized* among the unsaved by bad talk. vs.4
 - 1. "Filthiness" is from *aischrotes* which is obscene talk.
 - 2. "Foolish" is *morologia* -- "***where a mere laugh is aimed at even without wit.***" -- Reinecker/Rogers (buffoonery -- Strong's lexicon)
 - 3. "Jesting" is *eutrapelia* -- "***It implies the dexterity of turning a discourse to wit or humor -- deceptive speech, so formed that the speaker easily contrives to wiggle out of its meaning or engagements.***" -- Reinecker- Rogers
- B. Believers should be characterized among the unsaved as ones who give thanks. vs.4
 - 1. "But rather" is *alla mallon* -- but more exceedingly to the contrary. cf. 1st Tim. 6:2 (of the behavior of believers to believing masters)
 - 2. "Thanksgiving" -- extolling the virtues of God's good grace in all things.
- C.

VI. CONCLUSION