

The Need To Be Thankful

1 Thessalonians 5:14-22

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14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men.

15 See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men.

16 Rejoice evermore.

17 Pray without ceasing.

18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

1 Thessalonians 5:14-22 - continued

19 Quench not the Spirit.

20 Despise not prophesyings.

21 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

22 Abstain from all appearance of evil.

Introduction

A. Unthankfulness is a characteristic of the times

2 Timothy 3:2

For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

B. Unthankfulness is a characteristic of a lack of God in lives

Romans 1:21

Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

Introduction

C. Thankfulness is needed in the Christian life

Psalm 100:3-5

3 Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

4 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.

5 For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

I. Thankfulness Acknowledges God's Sovereignty

A. God's sovereignty over all things

Psalm 103:19

The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all.

Colossians 1:16

For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

I. Thankfulness Acknowledges God's Sovereignty

B. Thankfulness in adversity reveals trust in God's plan

Romans 8:28

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

Psalm 34:6

This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles.

I. Thankfulness Acknowledges God's Sovereignty

C. Thanksgiving as a way to honor God's will (5:18)

Colossians 3:15

And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

Ephesians 5:20

Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

II. Thankfulness Fosters a Spirit of Humility

A. Recognizes our dependence on God

James 1:17

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

Psalm 31:19

Oh how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee; which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men!

II. Thankfulness Fosters a Spirit of Humility

B. Thanksgiving keeps us from pride and entitlement

Deuteronomy 8:17-18

17 And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth.

18 But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.

1 Corinthians 15:10

But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

II. Thankfulness Fosters a Spirit of Humility

C. A thankful heart fosters contentment

Philippians 4:11-12

11 Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.

12 I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

1 Timothy 6:6

But godliness with contentment is great gain.

III. Thankfulness Strengthens Our Relationship With God

A. Thanksgiving deepens our worship

1. In His presence

Psalm 95:2

**Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and
make a joyful noise unto him with psalms.**

2. In His house

Psalm 100:4

**Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts
with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.**

III. Thankfulness Strengthens Our Relationship With God

A. Thanksgiving deepens our worship - continued

3. In His people

Psalm 69:30

**I will praise the name of God with a song, and will
magnify him with thanksgiving.**

III. Thankfulness Strengthens Our Relationship With God

B. Thankfulness leads to a closer walk with God

1. In life

Colossians 2:6-7

6 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:

7 Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

Colossians 3:17

And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

III. Thankfulness Strengthens Our Relationship With God

B. Thankfulness leads to a closer walk with God

2. In ministry

1 Timothy 1:12

**And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me,
for that he counted me faithful, putting me into
the ministry;**

III. Thankfulness Strengthens Our Relationship With God

C. Thankfulness cultivates a heart of prayer

Philippians 4:6

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

**We Need To
Give Thanks With A Grateful Heart**

Give thanks with a grateful heart

Give thanks to the Holy One

Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son

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And now let the weak say, “I am strong”

Let the poor say, “I am rich

Because of what the Lord has done for us”

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Give Thanks

How Thankful Are You?