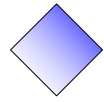


The Voice of Truth



November 24, 2013

"I Will Give Thanks unto Thee For Ever"

By Jimmy Pettigrew

"To the end that my glory may sing praise to thee, and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks unto thee for ever," Psalm 30:12.

"Give thanks unto the Lord, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the people," 1 Chronicles 16:8.

"That I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all thy Wondrous works," Psalm 26:7.

"So we thy people and sheep of thy pasture will give thee thanks for ever: we will shew forth thy praise to all generations," Psalm 79:13.

"Praise ye the Lord. O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth forever," Psalm 106:1.

"Surely the righteous shall give thanks unto thy name: the upright shall dwell in thy presence," Psalm 140:13.

As a child of God, a saint, one that is separated, set apart and sanctified, one that has been called out of darkness and into His marvelous light, ours is that of giving of thanks. Surely we do give thanks to God for all the good things He has given to us in such abundance!

The word thanks means give freely. It simply means that we offer gratitude, thankfulness.

"Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ," Ephesians 5:20.

"In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you," 1 Thessalonians 5:18.

This is something that the child of God is to abound in as long as he lives! One characteristic of the unbelieving world is ingratitude (**Romans 1:21**). Paul urged the Philippian saints to give thanks in everything (**Philippians 4:6**).

For what should we be grateful?

1). God's Love (John 3:16). We love God because we are loved of God (**1 John 4:10, 19**).

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us," Romans 5:8.

"Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift," 2 Corinthians 9:15. God loved, and God gave. God gave to the world the priceless gift of His only begotten Son (**1 John 4:9**). We thank you God for your love for it never faileth!

2). Jesus Left Heaven (John 3:13; 6:51). He left a place whose builder and maker is God (**Hebrews 11:10**). **He left a place of glory and honor (John 17:5).** He left a place of equality (**Philippians 2:6-7**). He left a place with no death, sorrow, crying or pain (**Revelation 21:4**). A far better place (**Philippians 1:23**). A place of security, joy, peace, where no darkness exists; a place void of sin and sinners. He left all for us! He left heaven for me, as worthless, sinful and undeserving as I am. We thank Jesus Christ for leaving heaven for us!

3). For the Word of God (2 Peter 1:3). God has been so gracious toward us in revealing His will to us in the scriptures. We have an opportunity to study, learn and live in harmony with divine precepts (**2 Timothy 2:15**). We are saved by the word (**James 1:21**). We, today, live by every word proceeding from God and we are made clean thereby (**John 15:3**). God's word is man's hope against sin (**Psalm 119:11**). God's word is the truth whereby man may be freed from sin (**John 8:32**). The truth of God's word is the means whereby we obtain the purification of the soul (**1 Peter 1:22-23**). God's word has the power to produce new life (**James 1:18**). It is able to build us up and give us an inheritance (**Acts 20:32**). We thank God for His living and powerful word (**Hebrews 4:12**).

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We can truly think of many other things for which we

should be grateful. Let us always give thanks and praise God for all He does for us! ♦

"Thanksgiving"

By Jarrod Jacobs

Lord willing, this coming Thursday, we will be celebrating the national holiday of Thanksgiving. Mr. Webster defines "thanksgiving" as follows: "1. the act of giving thanks; grateful acknowledgement of benefits or favors, esp. to God. 2. an expression of thanks, esp. to God. 3. a public celebration in acknowledgement of divine favor or kindness. 4. a day set apart for giving thanks to God. 5. (cap.) U.S. see Thanksgiving Day." Thanksgiving Day: "1. (in the United States) a national holiday for giving thanks to God, now observed on the fourth Thursday of November. 2. (in Canada) a national holiday for giving thanks to God, observed on the second Monday of October."

Did you notice something consistent with each of the above definitions? Each definition made reference to God! From man's early history, he has spent time in gratitude to God. Since the time of the pilgrims, there have been days of "thanksgiving" celebrated in this country as well. During Abraham Lincoln's presidency, a national day of "thanksgiving" was established, and has been celebrated annually in this country ever since.

It is great that we live in a nation that was founded upon the principles of godliness and thanking God for our bounty. However, we must also understand that "thanksgiving" is not simply a one-time-a-year, or one day thing! Thanksgiving to God needs to be a way of life with us. (**I Thess. 5:18; Eph. 5:20; Ps. 34:1!**) In fact, the word "thanksgiving" is something we find time and again in the Bible. Let us study about gratitude toward God and see how we measure up.

We Need To Give God Thanks For Our Physical Blessings.

In **Acts 17:24-28**, we learn that God created and sustains us. God "made the world and all things therein." He "giveth to all life, and breath, and all things For in him we live, and move, and have our being." In reading **Revelation 4:11**, we hear the 24 elders praising God and saying, "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created." The word "pleasure" means, "a determination (prop. the thing), i.e. (act.) choice (spec. purpose, decree; abstr. volition) or (pass.) inclination:-desire, will." (**Strong's**). In other words, man exists, and we are here at this time, because God **wanted** us! This ought to make us thankful to God!

Once we understand that we can do nothing for (or by) ourselves, we will be thankful to God as well! David said, "I will wash mine hands in innocency: so will I compass thine altar, O LORD: That I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all thy wondrous works" (**Ps. 26:6-7**). Later, we read, "It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High" (**Ps. 92:1**). Are you willing to thank God for physical things and "tell of His wonderful works"? Paul wrote: "Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God. For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God" (**II Cor. 9:11-12**).

For what should we be thankful? Let us be found thanking God for our food (**Mk. 8:1-9; I Tim. 4:1-5**); our life, strength, and health (**Acts 17:28**); our marriage, if we are married (This is a physical blessing from God, **Matt. 22:30**.); and our children (**Ps. 127:3**) just to name a few blessings in this life! Are we thankful to God for these things?

We Need To Give God Thanks For Our Spiritual Blessings.

When reading the Bible, we see that gratitude for spiritual blessings is an overwhelming theme! We need to take note of the gratitude shown by the men of God and make it our own!

David was grateful for such spiritual blessings as: the coming Lord, God's holiness, God Himself, and God's mercy (**Ps. 110:4, 30:4, 12, 106:1; I Chron. 16:4, 7**). The apostle Paul showed gratitude for: God Himself, being a partaker of God's inheritance, the brethren he knew, for God's "unspeakable gift," those who received the truth, and for being put "into the ministry" (**Col. 1:3, 12; Rom. 1:8, 16:1-4; II Cor. 9:15; I Thess. 2:13; I Tim. 1:12**). Jesus thanked God for things on numerous occasions. One such time was when He "gave thanks" in instituting the Lord's Supper, which to us is a spiritual blessing! (**Matt. 26:26-27**). Righteous Anna gave thanks for the spiritual blessing that is Jesus Christ, for He brought salvation to all men (**Lk. 2:36-38**)! Daniel is another example of one who was thankful for spiritual blessings. In **Daniel 2:20-23**, we find him thanking God that he had the ability to discern and

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explain Nebuchadnezzar's dream.

Brethren, how grateful are we for our spiritual blessings we enjoy in Christ (**Eph. 1:3**)? Truly, they are many!

How May We Express Our Thanksgiving To God?

Some may say: "I am grateful, but I am not sure how I can thank God." Below are just three ways to show our gratitude toward God.

We can express our gratitude to God through word of mouth. David said, "That I may **publish** with the **voice** of thanksgiving, and **tell** of all thy wondrous works" (**Ps. 26:7**). Later, he said, "Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and **declare** his works with rejoicing" (**Ps. 107:21-22**).

We can also express our gratitude to God through songs. **I Chronicles 16** records a psalm David delivered in gratitude and praise to God for the return of the ark. **Psalm 69:30** says, "I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving." Later, David said, "Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms" (**Ps. 95:2**).

A third way to express our gratitude toward God is through prayer. **Philippians 4:6** teaches the brethren to express their gratitude to God in this way. Jesus showed gratitude to God through prayer (**Matt. 26:26-27; Mk. 8:6; Jn. 11:41-42**). The apostle Paul expressed his gratitude to God in prayer on several occasions as well (**Acts 27:35; Rom. 1:8; II Tim. 1:3; Col. 1:3**).

These expressions of gratitude can be done in **both** public and private settings. The Holy Spirit calls this a "sacrifice of praise" (**Heb. 13:15**). Now that we know how, let us be about showing our gratitude to God daily!

The Results Of Ingratitude

Gratitude toward God is not an option! We are commanded and expected to properly thank God for what He has done and given to us (**I Thess. 5:18; Col. 3:15**). When

people have the attitude that gratitude is an option, they soon stop being as thankful to God as they once were. In fact, this has happened in many places, and some seem to think that they are OWED certain things merely because they are alive! **Not So!!!**

What is the result of ingratitude? Some seem to believe there are no consequences to suffer for ingratitude. This is wrong. The results of ingratitude are seen in **Romans 1:18-32**. Why is it that God "gave them (the Gentiles, JJ) up (over, NAS)" to uncleanness, vile passions, and a reprobate mind? His reasons are found in **Romans 1:21**: "Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, **neither were thankful**"!!

To keep God from giving us up, and to stop us from ultimately being the kind of people who do "not like to retain God in (our) knowledge"; let us be thankful and praise God for His wonderful works!

Some Questions About Gratitude.

1. "To whom are we to be thankful?" We must be thankful to God (**II Cor. 4:15**).
2. "To what extent are we to be grateful?" "...**abounding** therein with thanksgiving" (**Col. 2:7**).
3. "What should our attitude be toward gratitude?" Our attitude should be one of sacrifice. David said, "I will offer to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the LORD" (**Ps. 116:17**).
 - ◆ The Holy Spirit called it the "sacrifice of praise" in **Hebrews 13:15**.
4. "How widespread should our gratitude be?" Paul said, "I exhort therefore, that, ... supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for **all men**; For kings, and for **all** that are in authority" (**I Tim. 2:1-2**).
 - ◆ What does "all" mean?

Conclusion

How grateful are we to God? After considering all the blessings we enjoy in this life, how can we **not** be grateful to God? When we realize God's blessings come down upon us daily, then we can understand how gratitude is not a one-time occasion, but a life-long practice!!

Credit: The Old Paths - 11/22/09 ♦

**None are so empty as those who are full
Of themselves ♦**

**Either the Bible will keep you from sin . . .
Or sin will keep you from the Bible. ♦**

SUPPOSE - JUST SUPPOSE

Yes, just suppose that next Sunday Jesus stood at the end of the pew where you sit as you were about to place your offering in the collection plate, and just suppose that instead of the collection plate, he held out his hand, the hand that was nailed to the cross for you. Would you be willing to place your offering in that nail pierced hand?

Could you look upon that face stained with blood from the thorn pricked brow; see the body that was beaten and placed upon the cross, could you do this, look him in the eye and say, "*Lord I'm giving all I can*"?

Suppose as you looked upon Jesus, with the torn hands and feet, the beaten body, the pierced side and head crowned with thorns, he said to you, *This is how I showed my love to love.* ♦

GOD HAS A RIGHT

Author unknown

- God has a right to a definite part of your time
 - He has the power to take all of it.
- God has a right to a definite part of your money
 - He has the power to take all of it.
- God has a right to be glorified through your tongue
 - He has the power to take all of it.
- God has a right to be honored through your influence
 - He has the power to take all of it.
- God has a right to your life
 - He has the power to take all of it. ♦

THINK ABOUT IT!

When a farmer stops plowing his land, stops planting seed, and stops harvesting his crops, he has stopped doing those things that identify him as being a farmer. When a Christian stops attending worship services regularly, stops studying, stops giving as he has been prospered, and has stopped working for the Lord, he has stopped being a Christian because he has stopped doing those things that identify him as a Christian. *"By their fruits ye shall know them," (Matthew 7:20).* ♦

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear and Learn - Rom. 10:17 m. 10:9-10 ; 1 Pet. 3:21 ; John 6:45; 17:3

Believe - Heb. 11:6; John 6:29; 8:24

Repent - Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19; 17:30

Confess the Lord - Matt. 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Pet. 3:21

Be Baptized - Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27

Continue in the Apostles' Teaching - Acts 2:42; 2 Tim. 3:14-17

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Schedule of Assembly

Bible Study: Sunday, 9:00am
Worship Service: Sunday, 10:00am
Bible Study: Wednesday, 7:00pm*

*A song service is held on the last Wednesday of every month

www.hillcrestchurchofchrist.com