

# A Thanksgiving Thought

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Text - Eph. 5:20 / 1 Thess. 5:18

**Introduction:** The very thought of Thanksgiving may seem like an intrusion to many people today. The concept of gratitude is swiftly eroding. Also, some people confuse thanks-saying with Thanks-giving. The biblical meaning of giving thanks to God needs rediscovery.

Some people probably question the reason for Thanksgiving. They look at the cost of living, the hardships of life, the increase in crime and many other natural disasters as wonder if there really is a reason to be thankful. The early Pilgrims never associated Thanksgiving with an absence of hardship. They had little, faced much in the way of difficulty, but had thankful hearts. We should certainly do no less! As we think on the subject of Thanksgiving, these verses reveal how the grace of gratitude should be expressed.

## I. Thanksgiving Should be Continuous

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Look at the word, "always." We should always be giving thanks. You can never express your gratitude to God in a single day. The happy Christian lives in a spirit of gratitude to God continuously.

Thanksgiving should be offered to God under all circumstances. When all is well and we are happy, we should give thanks. But, when we are in the hour of disappointment we should also give Him thanks.

## II. Thanksgiving Should be Comprehensive

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Look at the words, "all things." We must consider all the blessings of God in every area of life. Think of God's blessings to you physically, mentally, spiritually, financially, psychologically, etc. We are told in God's Word to forget not "all" his benefits.

Being thankful to God includes the times when God says, "No!" What a blessing it is that God does not give in to every sentimental request we make. After all, God knows best! Also, we must be thankful for the blessings God gives which are unknown to us. Yes, God's unknown blessings. So often we only see the surface. Just think of all the things we have been able to avoid because God was with us and protected us. You can be thankful that the headache you had was not an oncoming stroke, or that indigestion was not actually a heart attack!

## III. Thanksgiving Should be Christian

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Paul tells us that we should give this thanks, "in the name of the Lord." The Christian lives and moves, and has his being within the will of God. A man was telling another about traveling over a certain road and how he had a crash but was not hurt. He was expressing his thanks. The other man said, "I can tell you something better than that. I have driven over that road a hundred times, have never crashed and never had a problem." Dear friend, how often we forget that as believers we are in the hands of the Lord. Let us give our thanks as Christians!

That for which we should be most thankful is the grace of God in Christ. This grace is ours because of God's Love (John 3:16). Love cannot be compelled, forced or bought. Paul was always giving thanks unto God for what he called God's "unspeakable gift." Paul saw the gift of God's love in Christ as beyond description. As we live in this world, we labor, strive and work for the best things. But, the best of all things is a gift - it is the gift of eternal life found only in Christ Jesus.

Thanksgiving is pleasing to God. Note the Scripture - "In everything give thanks for this is the will of God." God does not need our thanks; He dwells in continual praise in Heaven. We need to give thanks because of what it does for our hearts, our bodies, our minds and our lives.

If you have not received Christ as your Savior, He invites you to accept this wonderful gift. Turn from your sin, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved.