

"Ingratitude is one of the features of pagan depravity in Ro 1:21: *For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.*" Bruce

Wrap up:

In everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Is it more than an attitude of gratitude? Do we need to feel thankful before we give thanks?

To live a righteous life means to be characterized by incessant gratitude because incessant gratitude means that you have a grip on the goodness of God in your life, that you're literally swept up in what God is doing in your life.

What happens when you're thankful?

- God is glorified,
- you're blessed,
- the church is built up,
- and the lost are reached.
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It's impossible...but it is...Him-possible!

Places to meditate this week on thanksgiving: Exhorted to -Psalms 105:1; Colossians 3:15, Resolved to offer -Psalms 18:49; 30:12, Habitually offer -Daniel 6:10, Offer sacrifices of -Psalms 116:17, Abound in the faith with -Colossians 2:7, Magnify God by -Psalms 69:30, Come before God with -Psalms 95:2, Should enter God's gate with -Psalms 100:4, Of hypocrites, full of boasting -Luke 18:11

Series: Bible Gen. Ed.

Title: Thankfulness

Topic: Is it more than an attitude?



This has got to be the most thankless age there ever was. On the one hand you have people who have more than they've ever had, but you also have people who know there's more yet that they don't have. And so, no matter what they have, they don't have everything they could have and so they don't have everything they want, and so it breeds a terrible kind of thanklessness. JM

Today's Text:

1 Thess. 5:18: *In everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.* NASB Give thanks is a present imperative which calls for this to be, our habitual attitude and action!

Amplified: *Thank [God] in everything [no matter what the circumstances may be, be thankful and give thanks], for this is the will of God for you [who are] in Christ Jesus.*

Phil 2:14 *Do all things without grumbling or disputing; 15 that you may prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,*

Billy Graham:

"Ingratitude is a sin, just as surely as is lying or stealing or immorality or any other sin condemned by the Bible. Nothing turns us into bitter, selfish, dissatisfied people more quickly than an ungrateful heart. And nothing will do more to restore contentment and the joy of our salvation than a true spirit of thankfulness."

In everything give thanks...

No exceptions, no excuses, nothing is outside those parameters, in everything give thanks. That little phrase, *enanti*, in the Greek means in connection with everything that occurs. In connection with everything in life give thanks, no matter what it might be.

6 more passages from Paul on thankfulness:

Ephesians 5:3: *Don't let immorality or impurity or greed be named among you, ⁴There shouldn't be filthiness, silly talk, coarse jesting but rather giving of thanks.* Christians ought to be known by their thanksgiving.

Ephesians 5:18: *Don't be drunk with wine, be filled with the Spirit. ¹⁹Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord. ²⁰Always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God even the Father.*

Phil. 4:6: *"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God."*

Colossians 2:6: *As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him, established in your faith just as you were instructed and overflowing with gratitude.*

Colossians 3:15: *Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts to which indeed you were called in one body and be thankful. ¹⁷ Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks in everything.*

Colossians 4:2: *Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving.*

Be earnest and unwearied and steadfast in your prayer [lifjel], being [both] alert and intent in [your praying] with thanksgiving. AM

Back to our text:

1 Thess 5: ¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ in everything give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.

"And by the way, these three commands, rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks, these three commands penetrate the innermost recesses of the redeemed heart.

They're the best gauge on a person's spiritual condition. Don't judge your spirituality by church attendance. Don't judge your spirituality by ministry activity. Don't judge your spirituality by the fact that you do your duty as a Christian, you give your money, you show up at your Bible study, whatever it might be. Don't judge your spirituality by the fact that you haven't robbed anybody, you haven't murdered anybody, you haven't committed adultery, you haven't lied and cheated on your Income Tax. Don't judge your spirituality on that. Get deeper than that." JM

What robs gratitude from our lives?

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