

# Be Thankful

## Introduction

Colossians 3:15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and **be thankful**.

- 1. This is the time we nationally turn our attention to "Thanksgiving."**
- 2. As our text of scripture indicates, we should be thankful every day that we are given to live life on earth.**
- 3. Please consider what this verse says.....**

## The Sin of Ingratitude

- 1. There is a reason why so many people are filled with ingratitude in their lives.**

Romans 1:21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became **futile in their thoughts**, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

### **2 Timothy 3:1-5**

#### **A. Individuals fail to see the reality of a benevolent God.**

James 1:17 Every **good gift and every perfect gift is from above**, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

Acts 17:28 for **in Him we live and move and have our being**, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.'

**B. Many simply do not realize their total dependence on God.  
We can see the contrast in scripture:**

**1) The apostle Paul:**

1 Corinthians 15:10 But **by the grace of God I am what I am**, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, **but the grace of God which was with me.**

**2) The rich farmer:**

**Luke 12:16-21**

**2. We may not realize it but ingratitude causes many things in life:**

**A. A preoccupation with this world.**

Luke 8:13-14 But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are **choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life**, and bring no fruit to maturity.

**B. Forgetfulness.**

2 Peter 1:9 For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and **has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.**

Psalms 103:12 As far as the east is from the west, So far has **He removed our transgressions from us.**

**1) You may recall that in Luke 17:11-19 that Jesus cleansed TEN lepers. Yet only one returned to thank Him for what he did for him.**

### **C. Arrogance.**

Romans 1:22 **Professing to be wise**, they became fools,

### **D. Perversion: Religiously and Morally.**

Romans 1:23-25 and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and **worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator**, who is blessed forever. Amen.

### **E. Murmuring and complaining.**

1 Corinthians 10:10-11 nor complain, as some of them also complained, **and were destroyed by the destroyer**. Now all these things **happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition**, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

## **Be Thankful!**

1. **“Be” - is something to obey; to be contemplated, diligence given to a task.**

2 Peter 1:5 But also for this very reason, **giving all diligence**, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge,

**A. In regards to this, no one can do it for me. This is something that I must set my mind on and set out to do it!**  
**Ezekiel 18:18-20**

## 2. "Thankful"

### A. This is the alliance of "thank" and "think."

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—**meditate on these things.**

**1) We are much better off and have greater "peace of mind" when we count our blessings - not our troubles.**

a. **Fannie Crosby was blind but that did not stop her from penning many beautiful hymns that are still sung today in praise to God.**

- **Songs like "A Wonderful Savior," "To God Be the Glory," "Blessed Assurance," "Redeemed," and more than 8,000 hymns and gospel songs with over 100 million copies printed. She lived from 1820 to 1915. She died at the age of 94.**

**2) Even when faced with troubles – we should deal with them with a spirit of thankfulness.**

James 1:2-3 My brethren, **count it all joy when you fall into various trials,** knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

Romans 8:28 And we know that **all things work together for good** to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

**B. We should definitely be thankful for what we have, rather than fretting about what we don't have.**

1 Timothy 6:6-8 Now **godliness with contentment is great gain**. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.

Hebrews 13:5 Let your conduct be without covetousness; **be content with such things as you have**. For He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU NOR FORSAKE YOU."

- 1) We have so many things to be thankful for. Think about all our valuable and priceless spiritual blessings that we as Christians have in Christ Jesus!**

Colossians 3:15 And **let the peace of God rule in your hearts**, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

- a. God's Son, His church, the Bible, peace, hope.....**
- 2) In addition to all our spiritual blessings think about the physical blessings that we have.**
  - a. Our family, health, life's necessities, comforts, freedoms.....**

## What Shall I Give to God?

Psalms 116:12 What shall I render to the LORD **For all His benefits toward me?**

**1. Obey Him**

**Mark 16:16**

**2. Be Faithful to Him every day!**

2 Timothy 4:16-18 At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them. But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and that all the Gentiles might hear. Also I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen!

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh **I live by faith in the Son of God**, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet **the inward man is being renewed day by day**. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, **but the things which are not seen are eternal**.

