

Giving Thanks

"Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name." Psalms 100:4

GIVE THANKS!

Every good gift and every perfect gift comes down from above, from the Father...." (James 1:17)

For those who are truly in Christ, giving thanks is an attitude of life that acknowledges the contributions that come from God, from family, and from others.

This morning I encourage one and all to **GIVE THANKS!**

PERHAPS SOMEONE HERE THIS afternoon IS THINKING THAT HE OR SHE HAS NOTHING TO GIVE THANKS FOR.

Has the thought ever hit you that even though you don't have all that you want, you should be thankful that you do not get all that you deserve? Just a thought.

Then too, have you considered the fact that the poorest American is still the envy of almost all of the rest of the world. Let me prove it. A Missionary David Thompson sent this little five-question quiz. He said that if you can answer three of the five questions with a yes, you are among the 10% wealthiest people who've ever lived on earth:

1. Do you own more than one pair of shoes?
2. Do you own more than one piece of clothing?
3. Do you have a choice of what to eat for at least one meal out of three?
4. Do you have your own transportation?
5. Do you own a bible?

How did you come out?

How many people in India, China, Russia, Latin and Central America, Africa, Cuba, and Iraq would not give anything and everything to exchange places with any of us here dollar for dollar, house for house, health care for health care, and church for church?

Living a life of gratitude

Thankfulness is a funny thing. It seems so easy on the surface. It's something we teach children to do. And yet, we still struggle with the concept living a life of gratitude. And not just to each other. The person who we struggle being grateful to the most is

easily the person we should be the most grateful to, God.

1 Chronicles 16:34-35

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever. Cry out, "Save us, O God of our salvation! Gather and rescue us from among the nations, so we can thank your holy name and rejoice and praise you."

Living a life of gratitude has to start with God. He's the one who created us. Gave us breath. Sustains us now. How can we not be grateful?

Gratitude to God

When was the last time you went to church full of gratitude to God? It's not easy, is it? We wake up in the morning and have to prepare for worship physically but how often do we take the time to spiritually prepare ourselves before we even walk through the doors?

Psalm 26:6-7

I wash my hands to declare my innocence. I come to your altar, O LORD, singing a song of thanksgiving and telling of all your wonders.

It's a simple thing to forget in the bustle of getting ready on a Sunday morning, but we need to be thankful coming to church. There is a right way to show up on Sunday, but it can only happen if we start preparing our hearts before we even leave our homes. So let's start getting grateful early. And not just on Sunday.

Aware of our thankfulness.

Have you ever been around an ungrateful child? It's not pleasant, is it? But the funny thing is, when someone is grateful for something we've done, and they express that gratitude without us even asking, well, that's something special.

Psalm 50:23

But giving thanks is a sacrifice that truly honors me. If you keep to my path, I will reveal to you the salvation of God.

God wants us to be proactive about being thankful. It requires a change of our mindset. We need to be aware of our thankfulness.

"Praise the LORD. Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever." Psalms 106:1

***"Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."
1 Thessalonians 5:18***

"Always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." Ephesians 5:20