

Sunday, November 26, 2023
Expressing Our Thanks - ThanksLiving

Psalm 100

¹ Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands.
² Serve the LORD with gladness: come before His presence with singing.
³ Know ye that the LORD He is God: it is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.
⁴ Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: be thankful unto Him and bless His name.
⁵ For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting; and His truth endures to all generations. (KJV)

I. Thinking Thankfully

- a. Prayer
- b. Worship
- c. Dwelling on the good

II. Talking Thankfully

- a. Praising others
- b. Praising God
- c. Sharing our gratitude

III. Acting Thankfully

- a. Serving
- b. Sacrificing
- c. Sharing

A SELECTION OF OTHER THANKSGIVING SCRIPTURES

1 Cor 15:57 ... *But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!* (HCSB)

Eph 5:18-20 ... ¹⁸ *Be filled with the Spirit: speaking to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making music to the Lord in your heart,* ²⁰ *giving thanks always for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.* (HCSB)

Phil 4:6-7 ... ⁶ *Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.* ⁷ *And the peace of God, which surpasses every thought, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.* (HCSB)

1 Thess 5:16-18 ... ¹⁶ *Rejoice always!* ¹⁷ *Pray constantly.* ¹⁸ *Give thanks in everything, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.* (HCSB)

I. Expressing Thanks Is Habit.

- A. It's a good habit. We do it automatically. We have all seen a parent nudging a child and saying, "What do you say?" and the child parrots, "Thank you." It's a good way to teach a child—but we should never have to nudge believers and say, "What do you say to the nice God?" No, thanksgiving should come from hearts so filled with gratitude we cannot keep still.
- B. We need to form good habits and keep them.
- C. It is no sin to be in the habit of thanking people for the things they do for us.
- D. It is no sin to be in the habit of thanking God at every meal.
- E. ***Thanksgiving is habit, but it is more than habit.***

II. Expressing Thanks Is Courtesy.

- A. We expect it of others, and they expect it of us.
- B. That is a valid expectation. It is etiquette. It is good manners.
- C. God expects us to be thankful. Surely, He has a right to expect us to extend to Him the same courtesy we commonly extend to people.
- D. To fail to thank God would be rude and thoughtless.
- E. ***Thanksgiving is courtesy, but it is more than courtesy.***

III. Expressing Thanks Is Appreciation.

Thanksgiving is appreciation, ***but it is more than appreciation***

IV. Expressing Thanks Is Worship.

- A. It was an integral part of Old Testament worship. The Old Testament is filled with examples of personal thanksgiving and of corporate thanksgiving.
- B. The New Testament is also filled with examples. We can find them in the life of Jesus, in the life of the apostle Paul, and in the life of the church.
- C. It is a vital part of our own church's weekly worship through songs, in our public prayers, in our sermons and in our meditations.
- D. Thanksgiving is worship, ***but it is more than worship***

V. Expressing Thanks Is Faith

- A. It is believing that past blessings came from God.
- B. It is believing that present blessings come from God.
- C. It is believing that future blessings will come from God.
- D. ***Thanksgiving is faith, but it is more than faith.***

V. Expressing Thanks Is Love.

- A. Love means we never take our gifts for granted.
- B. Love means we never take the Giver for granted.
- C. Love should be expressed in words.
- D. Love should be expressed in deeds.

Conclusion

It is better to thank God from habit than not to thank Him at all; better to thank Him from courtesy than not to thank Him at all. It is good to thank God in worship, better to thank Him from faith, best of all to thank Him from love.