

Thanksgiving

(1 Thessalonians 5:18)

- Introduction:
1. In everything, give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you (1 Thessalonians 5:18).
 2. Thanklessness is surprisingly listed among some of what we would consider the most deadly sins (Romans 1:21; 2 Timothy 3:2).
 3. Charles Dickens said that we are mixed up in America. Rather than having one day a year to give thanks, we should have 364 days a year to give thanks and one day to gripe.
 4. While we celebrated “Thanksgiving Day” this past week, the Lord calls us to something better than that – “Thanksgiving.”
 5. In this lesson, I want to warn you of some things that can rob us of “Thanksgiving.”

I. Thoughtlessness

- A. Did you know that the words “think” and “thank” come from the same root word?
 1. “Think” and “Thank” are closely connected.
 2. When we don’t show gratitude, we’re not thinking.
- B. (Psalm 105:1-5; Psalm 106:1-2).
- C. “Count Your Blessings.”

II. Faithlessness

- A. Giving thanks is a spontaneous expression of one who has faith in God.
- B. If one lacks faith, why would he be thankful?
- C. The depth of our faith is gaged by our willingness and frequency of giving thanks to God.
- D. (Psalm 136:1) When we believe our blessings derive from God, we will have reason to give thanks.

III. Discontentment

- A. If we’re discontented with what we have, we will not give thanks.
- B. We must develop contentment (1 Timothy 6:6-8).
- C. Too many of us suffer from the “thanks, but...” syndrome.
- D. Did you know that of the 102 pilgrims that started their voyage on the Mayflower, 46 died and only 5 of the women survived – yet they gave thanks.

- Conclusion:
1. (Luke 17:11-19) Where are the nine?
 2. Could it be that God is looking for us and wondering why we are not giving him thanks?
 3. If you need to be more thankful, making it a way of life, be more thoughtful, more faithful, and more contented with what you have.