



Berean Christian Fellowship

DEVOTIONAL 54.0

December 4
2014

Thankful in ALL Things

“Always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father” (Ephesians 5:20).

Giving thanks to God can be a challenge for us in our walk through this life. It’s hard enough to remember to thank Him sometimes for the good things we receive in our lives, but what about the hard and difficult things that are thorns in our flesh? In Ephesians, Paul instructs us to give thanks always for ALL things, not just the good ones. He echoes this later by saying, *“In everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus”* (1 Thessalonians 5:18). This is a hard teaching—all the harder on our “Job days.”

During Job’s terrible ordeal, he looked to God and said, *“Though He slay me, I will hope in Him. Nevertheless I will argue my ways before Him”* (Job 13:15). Job did not turn away from God, but he also wasn’t thankful for the change his life had taken, and he wanted to argue his case to God—who among us wouldn’t? It can be hard to remain thankful to God when we are suffering, because we know He can stop our pain and our suffering—the scrapes, bruises and blood loss of life. Why does God lead us through hellish experiences and then command us to sing His praises? Would we not rather be like Job and bring our frustrated question marks before God, seeking justification and restoration? Yet even in our toughest trials we are commanded to devote ourselves *“to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving”* (Colossians 4:2). Thankfulness in bad times is important to God.

We are taught to give thanks to acknowledge blessings we receive in this life. And we are called to do so throughout Scripture, because thanksgiving for earthly blessings is an

acknowledgement of God’s provision, but this thanksgiving lasts only so long as the earthly blessing. It passes away just as the Earth is passing away—we are thankful for food today, which may be gone tomorrow. Will we still pray our prayer of thankfulness at an empty table with no food to eat? If we only thank God when He provides us what we “need,” then our thanksgiving isn’t a sacrifice. A sacrifice is difficult, even painful to make—it costs us something. And so God says, *“He who offers a sacrifice of thanksgiving honors Me”* (Psalm 50:23a). A Believer’s thankfulness needs to reflect the nature they will inherit—eternity. If all else turns sour in our lives, we must joyfully sacrifice thanksgiving for our Salvation from eternal death to eternal life in Jesus Christ. As Paul cries, *“Thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart...and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness”* (Romans 6:17-18).

Slaves know the powerlessness of their situation. They cannot save themselves and they cannot change their situation. They can only be resentful or thankful for their circumstances. If we have our eyes fixed on eternity, then we can be thankful to God, always and forever, regardless of our condition. This is a thankfulness that can bear the weight of our prayers over everyday pains, wretchedness, and sorrow, even if they are unanswered all our lives. In this way we can say, *“though He slay me, yet will I hope in Him”* without arguing our ways to Him. So often we think too little of our salvation, but this is the sum of everything we are now and forever; therefore, *“I will give You thanks forever, because **You have done it**, and I will wait on Your name, for it is good, in the presence of Your godly ones”* (Psalm 52:9). Let us be forever thankful to God, for HE HAS DONE IT! Amen.

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