

Thanksgiving

Introduction

Colossians 3:12-17

1. **Thanksgiving - a time to reflect.**
 - **We should be a very “thankful” people**
 - A. **On our blessings as a nation.**
 - B. **On our blessings from God.**

2. **Paul wrote:**

Ephesians 5:20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Why Give Thanks

1. So our hearts will not become darkened.

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.

- **Thankful people appreciate the good.**

2. To remember and thank the one whom all good things come from.

Psalms 92:1 It is good to give thanks to the LORD, and to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;

- **David's praise:** (verses 10-15)

1 Chronicles 29:16 "O LORD our God, all this abundance that we have prepared to build You a house for Your holy name is from Your hand, and is all Your own."

3. Let us not receive the glory - give to God.

Psalms 50:14 Offer to God thanksgiving, and pay your vows to the Most High.

1 Timothy 1:12 And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry,

Luke 17:12-18 – Ten lepers cleansed

For What Should We Give Thanks For

1. First and foremost: His gift that He gave us!

2 Corinthians 9:15 Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

A. What was that gift? (John 3:16)

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. For all the good people.

2 Thessalonians 1:3 We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other,

3. For the victory we have in Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:56-58

A. Jesus conquered death when he was raised from the dead and he promises us a victory over death **if we do His will**. For that we can be eternally thankful!

4. We should give thanks for all things.

1Thessalonians 5:18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

A. There are many wondrous sights that God has given us.

Psalms 26:7 That I may proclaim with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all Your wondrous works.

B. That God takes care of us when we pray to Him.

Philippians 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

When Should We Give Thanks

1. Not just during the thanksgiving holiday season, but Always.

Ephesians 5:20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Who Should Give Thanks

1. God's people.

1 Timothy 2:1-2

1 Timothy 4:1-4

Conclusion

1. **Giving thanks to God is an honor and blessing for those of us that are Christians.**
 - A. **We have so much to be thankful for!**
 - B. **We have opportunity for eternal life!**
2. **Are you a Christian today? If not, why not?**
 - A. **Life as a Christian is not a life of drudgery - but rather of happiness and thankfulness.**
 - B. **Without Christ this is the only life you will ever know - but with Him you can have life eternally.**
3. **If you are not a Christian **you can be thankful** right now that God has spared your life to give you yet another chance to obey Him.**
 - A. **Remember the words of Ananias to Paul?**

Acts 22:16 'And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.'

 - 1) **Those words were sweet and Paul obeyed and was baptized in order to be saved.**
4. **You can be thankful most of all that God has allowed you yet one more opportunity to make your life right with Him. Won't you do so now?**

