

## BEING THANKFUL IN ALL SITUATIONS

Colossians 3:15

(Not entirely original with me)

**Introduction:** There is a season in America that is called "Thanksgiving" season. During that time of the year, families gather together at one of their homes and have a "traditional" "thanksgiving" meal. Sadly, it seems that that is the only time of the year that everyone thinks of being "thankful." It is, no doubt, difficult to be "thankful" in difficult times yet there can still be reasons to be thankful. Paul encourages Christians to be thankful all the time, no matter the situation.

### 1. BEING THANKFUL IS NOT VERY COMMON

- Jesus healed ten lepers one time and only one came back in gratitude and thankfulness.
  - These ten men dreamed of the day that they would be cured.
  - When the ten men were healed, it cost them so little, it happened so quickly.
  - Did the ten men not deserve to be healed?
  - Only one of the ten men realized that he had much cause to be thankful.
- Every Christian wants something, dreams of having that particular thing.
  - When that Christian does get what he/she had been dreaming of, is there any gratitude?  
Is there any thankfulness?
  - Others have far more than he/she does, didn't he/she deserve to have what he/she wanted?
  - Is not ingratitude more prevalent than thankfulness?

### 2. BEING THANKFUL IN DIRE AND NORMAL SITUATIONS

- It is natural to be "thankful" when someone escapes a dangerous situation or when one comes out of surgery alright or when one recovers from some illness or returns from a war.
  - There is a rush of gratitude and thankfulness in one's heart and prayer of thanksgiving is made to the Lord God.
  - God has usually been "on a shelf" or not so important before those difficult times and not "thanked" very often.
- It should not take a dire situation to cause a Christian to be thankful for every believer should be thankful every day.
  - Being thankful every day is to feel the hand of God all around and to recognize God's love even though one certainly does not deserve it.
- To be thankful every day is to meet whatever the day brings without complaining.
- Being thankful all the time is one of the wonders of the Gospel.

### 3. BEING THANKFUL IN PLACE OF RESIGNATION

- Being thankful depends upon one's view of God. However one sees God determines his/her degree of gratitude, thankfulness.
- One view is to face whatever comes with faith in the Lord God and another view is to take whatever happens as whatever happens, that's the way life is.
- The moment one awakens to the truth that God loves, Jesus died and rose again for his/her sins, eternal life is given by God's grace through one's belief in Jesus, then gratitude happens.
  - Only THEN can a person in everything give thanks.

#### **4. BEING THANKFUL LIKE JESUS**

- Jesus was always rejoicing, even when things began to get closer to His death.
  - Jesus gave thanks when He broke bread on the side of a mountain.
  - Jesus gave thanks for the ordinary people who believed in Him.
  - Jesus gave thanks hours before being taken prisoner and then to the cross.
    - The night Jesus was betrayed, when His years of work were ending and the cross was awaiting, He was thankful and expressed it in prayer.
- Christians are to walk as Jesus walked. Christians are to be thankful as Jesus was thankful.
  - Being thankful not only for the good, beautiful, wonderful, glad things, but for the dark, dangerous, shadowy, common things as well.
- Christians are to be thankful like Jesus because God is love and in love orders all things and all things work together for the good of God's Children, believers, Christians.

#### **5. BEING THANKFUL IS THE SECRET OF HAPPINESS**

- It is not the "happy" people who are thankful, but it is the thankful people who are "happy."
  - Happiness does not depend upon what a person has for if that was so, those who have the most would be the most happy and everyone knows that that just is not true.
    - Usually the most unhappy are those who have the most.
  - Happiness depends upon one's point of view.
    - A flower may be a weed to a farmer, but to the botanist, a thing of beauty.
    - Rain may irritate some, but to others it is just what they have been looking for.
    - The constant complainer is never really happy and the one who seldom if ever worries is really happy.
    - Ungrateful people are never happy.
  - The more one is thankful for his/her everyday mercies, the more life becomes joyful.
- Christians are always to be thankful for they have the most to be thankful for.
  - God is love and in the Lord Jesus the Christian lives and that is worth more than the world can ever offer.
- The way to be glad is to be grateful and the way to be grateful is to trust in the Lord Jesus.

#### **6. BEING THANKFUL CAUSES DEDICATED SERVICE**

- Slaves were bought and some were set free by their new owners and in return that now-freed slave offers him/herself in lifetime service to the one who bought and freed him/her.
- Christians are like those slaves who had been bought and then freed. That is exactly what Jesus has done.
  - People once enslaved by Satan to the world and to sin who turned to the Lord Jesus Christ in belief, have been bought, paid for, by Jesus on the cross and have been set free, adopted into the family of God.
  - When the Christian realizes what exactly has taken place he/she can't help but be thankful to the Lord at all times, no matter what for nothing could be worse than being a slave to Satan, sin and the world.

## **CONCLUSION:**

1. Christian, think of all you owe God through the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - One of the many, perhaps the least of all, YOU are just as important to God as any other believer.
2. It was not with gold, but with the blood of Jesus that believers have been bought and brought out into God's family.
3. There will come a new peace into the believer's life, a happiness never dreamed of, a will and desire to something every day for the Lord Jesus when one realizes what has been given and done for him/her.
4. Being thankful should be as natural to a Christian as breathing.