

SOME REASONS TO BE GRATEFUL

1 Thessalonians 5:18 Luke 12:15-31

Introduction: Being grateful is a positive emotional attitude resulting usually from some act of kindness or discovering things could be worse than they really are. A story is told about a man shipwrecked on an island. After taking an inventory of his situation, he found that although alone on a deserted island, he was alive and all his shipmates were dead. He had no clothes, but it was hot and they were not really needed. He had no weapon for defense, but he saw nothing to bring him harm. He had no food but saw fruits and berries on the island as well as a running stream of fresh water. He therefore concluded that he had plenty to be grateful for, things could be worse. Then there are those of the Bible who had troubles, such as Job in the Old Testament and then Paul in the New Testament. He was persecuted in many ways, stoned, run out of towns, imprisoned, rejected, shipwrecked, and finally beheaded, yet Paul constantly was giving thanks to God. He always found something to be grateful for.

I. CHRISTIANS CAN BE GRATEFUL FOR SOME WRONG THINGS

1. When asked if one is grateful about anything, most usually it is always something material.
 - God reminds His children many times that they are to have little to do with the world.
2. Often when asked what one is grateful for the answer is for his/her position or job.
 - Although that sounds reasonable, Jesus reminds us to beware when everybody thinks well of us.
 - The world didn't like Jesus and if we are living as we should be, then the world won't care too much for us either.
 - One's position or job in the world can draw one away from the Christian way of life.
3. Take care Christian that you don't focus on what the world offers. Think about it!

II. THINGS THAT COME FROM GOD ARE CAUSE TO BE GRATEFUL

1. Unknowingly to most, you are who you are because God had something to do with it.
 - He chose you to be where you are, who you are, what you are capable of doing.
 - Although often we wish we were somebody else, be grateful that God was the one who made you and put you where you are.
2. God is the one who has given you what you have and where you live.
 - God calls His children, "stewards." We are to take care of what is God's and in the meantime He provides what we need to do just that.
3. If you have a Christian family then you have a wonderful reason to be grateful. Many do not and do not have a praying family, a loving family, a family who worships together.

4. Christian, you have no cause to be overly anxious as others.
 - No matter what happens, God is with you and has your best interest in mind and He will stay with you through whatever may happen.
5. Another cause to be grateful to God is that He will never allow Satan to have you to the point that you cannot keep from sinning.
 - The Holy Spirit indwells you and will help you through all your temptations.
6. Be grateful for the wonderful memories of your loved ones and friends.
 - Some may be gone from your presence but you have those memories and God has given you the ability to recall those past experiences with them as if they had just happened yesterday.
 - You can relive those memories at any moment you choose.
7. Perhaps the greatest thing to be grateful for that comes from God is your eternal life.
 - If not for God's love for you and the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus, on that cross, there would still be no hope, for Satan would still be in control.
 - Yet God so loved us that He sent His Son to die and He raised His Son again for us. What a wonderful thing God has done and it is free to all who would accept it.
8. The crowning thing which the Christian has awaiting him/her from God is Heaven.
 - A new body awaits every Christian.
 - Unknowable wealth will be the Christian's as a joint heir with Jesus.
 - A place built just for each Christian by God, Himself.
 - Fellowship with all every Child of God from the beginning of time.
 - The permanent presence of the Lord Jesus, Himself.

CONCLUSION:

1. Being grateful can be a permanent way of life and it should be for the Christian.
 - Favor received should cause one to want to do a favor in return.
 - Gratitude is a positive emotional attitude from the heart.
2. Gratitude can affect one's entire life.
 - It can turn darkness into light, sadness into happiness, sickness into wellness.
3. Gratitude is something that has to be shared with someone else.
4. Remember, things that come from God are more important than things that come from the world.
5. Now, take an inventory.
 - What God has given you and what the world has given you.
 - Which lasts the longest and has done you the most good?