



should all “give thanks to the Lord! Call upon His name; Make known His deeds among the peoples!” God tells us that we must give thanks to Him everywhere we go, not in spite of the people there, but because of the people there, that they might come to know God better and give Him the thanks He deserves. And, we must give Him thanks

with every opportunity we get. 1 Chronicles 23:30 tells us to thank God every morning and every evening and everything we do in-between them (1 Thessalonians 5:18). The psalmist tells us that, even at midnight, we must give Him thanks (Psalm 119:62). We must thank God on special days and not-so special days (Romans 14:6). We must thank God continually (Hebrews 13:15), always (Ephesians 5:20) and without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 2:13).

I hope that we become more thankful to God for everything He is (and is not), everything He does (and doesn't do), and how much He loves each and every single one of us. I pray that we become more effective “thanks-givers” as we continually give thanks in everything that we do.



Faithful Sayings Issue 11.50 December 13, 2009

Welcome Visitors

**We are so glad that you joined us today.
Please come again.**

● **Let us know if you have any questions.**

ISSUE

11.50

BULLETIN OF
THE OLSEN
PARK CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Faithful Sayings

December 13
2009



Services

Sunday: 9:30 AM
10:20 AM
6:00 PM

Wednesday: 7:00 PM

Elders:

Ken Ford
Charles Kelley
Pat Ledbetter

Deacons:

Dean Bowers
Eddie Cook
Pat Goguen
Neil Ledbetter
Jeff Nunn
Rusty Scott

Evangelists:

Kyle Pope
Curtis Carwile

Thanksgiving

by Curtis Carwile

A few weeks ago, many of us celebrated the secular holiday of Thanksgiving. No doubt, many of us remembered the stories of “The First Thanksgiving” between the Plymouth Pilgrims and the Native Americans. Some of us may have even brought to mind President Lincoln instituting Thanksgiving as a national holiday during a period of civil unrest. And, hopefully all of us looked back over the last year to think about the specific good and bad things for which we are thankful. It is with this in mind that I would like for us to consider what the Bible says about the attitude of thanksgiving we should all strive to have more and more every day.

The first thing I would like for us to consider is why we should give thanks. Aside from Jesus, our perfect example, giving thanks all the time (Matthew 11:25; 15:36; 26:27), there are plenty of other great reasons we should always give

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thanks to God. In 1 Chronicles 16:34 David gives thanks to God and shouts, **“Oh give thanks to the Lord for He is good! For His mercies endure forever.”** This declaration is repeated time and time again throughout the Old Testament, especially in the psalms (Psalm 106:1; Psalm 107:1, 8, 15, 21, 31; Psalm 118:1, 29; Psalm 136:1). God is so very

good and we should be thankful that He is good. Also, God deserves our thanks because He gives the victory. In 1 Corinthians 15:57, Paul says **“But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”** This victory is over the greatest enemies man has ever faced in sin and death. Jesus defeated both by dying on the cross and rising from the dead. In 2 Corinthians 2:14, Paul says that we should also give thanks to God because He leads us to the triumph in Christ. If we are buried with Him in baptism, He will raise us from the dead and we will be victorious over sin and death as well. How can we NOT give thanks to God for that?! This can all be summed up in what Paul says in 2 Corinthians 9:15 when he says **“Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!”** We must give Him thanks for reasons which are too numerous and awesome to even begin to count and understand.

Secondly, there are a number of different ways in which we must give thanks to God. We must give thanks to Him by praying. In Philippians 4:6, Paul tells us **“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.”** Also, in Colossians 4:2, Paul tells us **“Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving.”** While we pray, we must give thanks to God by keeping in mind all the reasons why He deserves our thanks.

We must also give thanks to Him by singing praises to Him. In 2 Samuel 22:50, David sings, **“Therefore, I will give thanks to You, O Lord, among the Gentiles, and sing praises to Your name.”** In the Psalms, we see this sentiment repeated over and over (Psalm 18:49; Psalm 30:4, 12; Psalm 69:30; 95:2; 147:7). And, our words and our actions must be congruent with each other; we must act thankfully by living righteously. In Colossians 3:17, Paul tells us that **“Whatever you do in word or in deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”** We must give thanks in everything we do and say which must be in accordance with His will.

Thirdly, we must also give consideration as to the manner in which we offer our thanks to God in our prayers, songs, and actions. Leviticus 22:29 tells us that sacrifices (specifically, the thanksgiving sacrifice, but applicable to all) must be made of our own free will. In the Psalms, we see how important it was to each psalmist to offer their thanksgiving by their own free will (Psalm 50:14; Psalm 107:22; Psalm 116:17). So, we must offer thanks freely and, as Paul tells us in 1 Thessalonians 2:13, without ceasing. And, lest we think we can get by with “empty words,” Paul tells us in Colossians 2:7 that we must abound in the faith with thanksgiving. We must,

as Paul says in Colossians 3:15, **“Let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body, and be thankful.”** We must let God’s peace rule in our lives if we are to be truly thankful. Oddly enough, we cannot understand true thankfulness until God’s peace rules in our hearts.

Finally, if we are to thank God properly, we must keep in mind the place and time God specifies for us to do so: “everywhere” and “all the time.” Where ever we are, we must give thanks to God for everything. David said that he would give thanks before everyone, including the Gentiles (2 Samuel 22:50). Later, David shouted to the people that they

