



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

November 24, 2019

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Deacons:

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Larry Hill
Steve McCreary

Minister:

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Service Times:

Sunday

Bible Study 10 am
Worship Service 10:45 am
Worship Service 6 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00 pm

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Blessings We Always Have

As my youngest daughter (who is 4 years old) prays, she inevitably expresses thanks to God for the blessings that He provides. However, when she states it, there is a truth that she adds in which many of us adults forget. She prays, "Thank you for the blessings that we always have." It is true isn't it? God "*daily beareth our burden*" (**Psa. 68:19**) and faithful men "*abound with blessings*" (**Pro. 28:20**).

Even the unrighteous are blessed through God's faithfulness in creation (**Matt. 5:45; Acts 14:17**). The physical blessings that every man enjoys come from God: "*every good gift and every perfect gift is from above*" (**James 1:17**). God wants us to be happy and satisfied so that we can see and access the greater blessings (that have always been in His mind) in the spiritual realm. To "always have" those blessings we must choose to be in Christ's church and keep ourselves in the love of God (**Matt. 16:18; Jude 21**). To be "in Christ" one must have the faith that leads them to repent and confess Christ and be baptized "into" Him (**John 3:36; Luke 13:3; Acts 8:37; Gal. 3:27**). God had a plan before the world began for mankind to receive the ultimate blessings of mercy, grace, redemption, and eternal life in His Kingdom through obedience to His only begotten Son (**2 Tim. 1:9; Titus 1:2**).

Think about it: Christ was "*slain from the foundation of the world*" so we could always have blessings (**Rev. 13:8**). God chose that the faithful in Christ would always have blessings "*before the foundation of the world*" (**Eph. 1:4**). At the end of time, the Lord and King will allow the righteous to always have blessings in the "*kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world*" (**Matt. 25:34**).

Let us be thankful for the "blessings we always have!"

Derrick Coble

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

In Everything Give Thanks

“In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you” (1 Thessalonians 5:18). This statement Paul wrote to the church of Thessalonica is one that should be applied to our lives daily. During the holiday season, there is an emphasis on the need for being thankful. However, if we adopt the attitude Paul commanded, we will give thanks *“in everything,”* at all times, and not just during Thanksgiving.

Notice that Paul admonished to *“give thanks.”* This term implies that God wants His children not only to feel thankful, but also to “express” gratitude and thanksgiving. Paul taught this same principle in writing to the church at Ephesus: *“Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Ephesians 5:20).* It will do us all good to “give” thanks to God through prayer.

By offering prayers of thanksgiving to God, we are reminded that we are dependent on God for all things. Every *“good and perfect”* gift is from God (**James 1:17**). Without His blessings upon our lives, we would have nothing. *“For in him we live, and move, and have our being” (Acts 17:28).* Every breath, every meal, every ray of sunshine is from His bountiful hand.

Further, consider that Paul instructed us to give thanks *“in everything.”* He did not teach that we should be thankful “for” everything. Certainly, we should not be thankful “for” gang violence, child abuse, broken homes or divorce. Nevertheless, Christians can learn to be thankful “in” all circumstances. For the Christian, there is always a “bright side.” In all circumstances, there is the quiet confidence and calm assurance that comes from knowing God and being close to Him. The Father has promised that He will never leave or forsake His children (**Hebrews 13:5-6**). Finally, notice from the text that being thankful is *“the will of God in Christ Jesus.”* Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount that *“doing the Father’s will”* is necessary to go to heaven: *“Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 7:21).* “Doing” the Father’s will is vital! It is only by doing His will that we can enter into the kingdom of heaven. We might think that “doing the Father’s will” involves some “great” accomplishment that would dazzle others who heard of it. But Paul taught that simply being thankful in everything is part of doing God’s will.

In view of these thoughts, we should all realize the great importance of being thankful. If we have not been *“giving thanks in everything,”* then a change is in order. A day should not pass without every responsible person giving thanks to God for the countless blessings He provides.

Mark Lindley