

“A CALL TO GIVE THANKS”
1 THESSALONIANS 5:18

INTRO: From the pages of the Word of God we find that **THE GIVING OF THANKS** should be a consistent element in the life of the Believer in Christ. Among the holidays we celebrate, **THANKSGIVING is possibly the most significant** because, in scripture, we are not told to celebrate Christmas or Easter, BUT **THANKSGIVING IS TO BE A CHARACTERISTIC OF OUR LIFE**. In fact, over and over again in the Bible we are exhorted to BE THANKFUL or to GIVE THANKS UNTO GOD. For a few minutes today let's consider THE CALL OF THANKSGIVING that is given to us in 1 Thessalonians 5:18. As we do, sincerely ask yourself this question: **“AM I A THANKFUL CHRISTIAN?”**

THE REALITY OF 1 THESSALONIANS 5:18 IN THE BELIEVER'S LIFE

RECOGNIZING THAT GOD IS IN CONTROL OF OUR LIVES AS BELIEVERS WE ARE TO BE THANKFUL IN EVERYTHING WE FACE KNOWING THAT GOD IS WORKING ALL THINGS TOGETHER FOR OUR GOOD AND HIS GLORY – ROMANS 8:28

I. THE CONDITION OF GIVING THANKS

IN EVERYTHING GIVE THANKS

NOTE: **THE OBJECT OF TRUE THANKSGIVING IS GOD!**

A. The Unthankful Condition

1. Being Unthankful is the condition of the Unsaved Heart
-Romans 1:21
2. Being Unthankful is the condition of the Apostate Heart
-2 Timothy 3:2

B. The Thankful Condition

1. Being Thankful is the condition of the Victorious Heart
-1 Corinthians 15:57
2. Being Thankful is the condition of the Triumphant Heart
-2 Corinthians 2:14

BIBLICAL OBSERVATIONS:

- Thankfulness is the essence of the Christians on Earth
- Colossians 2:7
- Thankfulness is the essence of the Christians in Heaven
- Revelation 7:12; 19:6,7

THE POINT:

- UNBELIEVERS ARE NOT THANKFUL UNTO GOD**
- BELIEVERS ARE THANKFUL UNTO GOD**

II. THE COMMAND OF GIVING THANKS

IN EVERYTHING GIVE THANKS

- A. This Command allows believers NO EXCUSES to be Unthankful.
- B. This Command indicates that God EXPECTS believers to be Thankful.
- C. This Command calls for the fact that no matter what struggles or trials believers face, GENUINE THANKSGIVING is to be offered to God.
- D. This Command is ENABLED by the Power of the Holy Spirit
-Ephesians 5:18-21
- E. This Command is a THE FABRIC of the Believer
-Colossians 3:17

III. THE COMMISSION OF GIVING THANKS

THIS IS THE WILL OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS

- A. Christians who are **Obedient** will be Thankful to God in all things.
- B. Christians who are **Spiritual** will be Thankful to God in all things.
- C. Christians who are **God Honoring** will be Thankful to God in all things.
- D. Christians who are **Living By Faith** will be Thankful to God in all things.

IV. THE CONSEQUENCE OF GIVING THANGS

CONCERNING YOU

- A. Toward God – He Will Be Glorified
- B. Toward Other Believers – They will be Encouraged
- C. Toward Unbelievers – They will receive a Witness

LESSON/APPLICATION

- 1) The Manifestation of our THANKFULNESS reflects our walk with the Lord.
- 2) The Genuine Worship of the believer is enhanced by being THANKFUL.
- 3) The Effort of the Believer is NOT to FOCUS on being THANKFUL because that will bring failure....BUT TO FOCUS ON BEING CONTROLLED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT which will result in a LIFE OF THANKSGIVING TO GOD. Ephesians 5:18-20