

"IN EVERYTHING GIVE THANKS"

1 THESSALONIANS 5:18

INTRO: In my opinion, **THE THANKSGIVING SEASON** is one of the most enjoyable times of the year. **IT IS A TIME** to relax from the hustle and bustle of life. **IT IS A TIME** to get together with our friends, family, and loved ones. **IT IS A TIME** to reflect upon what God has done for us. **IT IS A TIME** to examine our lives to see if we truly are thankful unto God for **ALL OF HIS MERCY, LOVE AND GRACE** that He has poured out upon us down through the years of our lives. **IT IS A TIME** for us to practice a very important **BIBLICAL DISCIPLINE OF GIVING THANKS UNTO GOD. THAT IS RIGHT – GIVING THANKS UNTO GOD IS A BIBLICAL DISCIPLINE FOR EVERY CHRISTIAN TO APPLY AND ENGRAFT INTO OUR LIVES.**

TWO QUESTIONS:

1) Are you a Christian today?

- If not, **WHY NOT? TRUST JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR PERSONAL SAVIOR TODAY.**

2) Are you a **THANKFUL CHRISTIAN TODAY?**

- If not, **WHY NOT? TRUE CHRISTIANS HAVE SO MANY THINGS FOR WHICH TO BE THANKFUL...NO MATTER WHAT THE CIRCUMSTANCES ARE IN LIFE.**

MY SERMON TITLE TODAY IS TAKEN RIGHT FROM THE TEXT OF SCRIPTURE AND IS ENTITLED **"IN EVERYTHING GIVE THANKS."** LET'S SEE WHAT GOD HAS FOR US TODAY IN THE STUDY OF HIS **WONDERFUL WORD!**

I. THE COMMAND FOR GIVING THANKS – Vs. 18a

"IN EVERYTHING GIVE THANKS"

QUESTION: WHY ARE WE AS BELIEVERS TO GIVE THANKS "IN EVERYTHING?"

ANSWER: BECAUSE EVERYTHING HAS A TWO-FOLD PURPOSE:

- From Our Perspective – To obey God and to focus on Him no matter what, so that we might grow in Him and glorify Him in our lives.
- From God's Perspective – That He will be able to reveal His great provision to us in all situations and then be free to bless and use us because of our attitude of thanksgiving.

OBSERVATION: EVEN IN THE MIDST OF THE TRIALS AND TEMPTATIONS OF OUR LIVES, WE SHOULD, CAN AND MUST BE THANKFUL FOR THE OUTCOME OF THOSE TRIALS AND TEMPTATIONS.

A. Trials Rightly Faced Results in Spiritual Growth – James 1:2-5

-SO, LET'S BE THANKFUL IN EVERY TRIAL KNOWING THAT GOD IS AT WORK MOLDING US INTO THE PERSON HE WANTS US TO BE.

B. Temptations Rightly Faced Results in Spiritual Reward – James 1:12

-SO, LET'S BE THANKFUL IN EVERY TEMPTATION KNOWING THAT GOD WILL REWARD US AS WE OVERCOME THE TEMPTATION FROM THE BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE.

NOTE: Romans 8:28-30

II. THE CAUSE FOR GIVING THANKS – Vs.18b

"FOR THIS IS THE WILL OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS"

NOTE: The phrase "IN CHRIST JESUS" IS VERY SIGNIFICANT! WHY?

- Because every true believer's position is **"IN CHRIST."**
- Because being **"IN CHRIST"** guarantees every true believer ALL of the BLESSINGS of God no matter what we face in life – Ephesians 1:3

QUESTION: WHY IS IT THE "WILL OF GOD" FOR US TO GIVE THANKS "IN EVERYTHING?"

- A. Because God Desires for us to Depend Upon Him in All Things
- B. Because God Desires for us to be a Positive Testimony for Him in All Things
- C. Because God Desires for us to See Him at Work in All Things
- D. Because God Desires for us to Glorify Him in All Things

III. THE CONCERN FOR GIVING THANKS – Vs. 18c

“CONCERNING YOU”

NOTE: God has a **DEEP CONCERN** for all of us to **BE THANKFUL IN EVERYTHING** because doing so has **MANY POSITIVE SPIRITUAL RESULTS**.

- A. Being Thankful in All Things Motivates us to Trust God More
- B. Being Thankful in All Things Challenges us to Anticipate His Work in our Lives
- C. Being Thankful in All Things Sharpens our Witness to the Lost
- D. Being Thankful in All Things Edifies Other Believers in Christ
- E. Being Thankful in All Things Glorifies God in our Lives

IF IT IS THE WILL OF GOD FOR ALL BELIEVERS TO BE THANKFUL IN ALL THINGS, HOW CAN WE DO SUCH A THING IN FACE OF ALL OF THE ISSUES OF LIFE?

- 1) Not by our Own Strength. Being thankful in all things by our own strength is impossible and would only lead to SPIRITUAL FRUSTRATION.
- 2) By the Strength of the Holy Spirit of God. Only by the Holy Spirit can we be thankful in all things and experience SPIRITUAL VICTORY. Ephesians 5:18-20.

LESSON/APPLICATION

During this SEASON OF THANKSGIVING, let's determine to begin GIVE THANKS IN ALL THINGS BY:

- Daily walking in the Power of the Holy Spirit.
- Daily depending upon God's Power to face everything.
- Daily living in Obedience to God, no matter what.