

"THE BIBILCAL CONCEPT OF THANKSGIVING"

TEXT: PSALM 92:1-4

INTRO: Thanksgiving is a GREAT HOLIDAY that the citizens of the United States have the PRIVILEGE to celebrate once a year. But for the Christian, **THANKSGIVING IS MORE THAN A HOLIDAY; IT IS TO BE A WAY OF LIFE.** So today we shall focus on THE BIBLICAL CONCEPT OF THANKSGIVING that EVERY CHILD OF GOD would do well to understand and engraft into EVERY DAY, EVERY ACTION, EVERY THOUGHT AND EVERY ACTIVITY OF THEIR LIFE.

OBSERVATION: Many of the EARLY SETTLERS AND FOUNDING FATHERS celebrated and called for GIVING THANKS unto God.

1) The Pilgrims – In 1620, after landing the Mayflower in Plymouth, MA, the Pilgrims had a THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION TO GOD which laid the foundation for the American tradition of THANKSGIVING DAY.

2) John Hancock – On December 11, 1783, as Governor of Massachusetts, Hancock issued a Proclamation of Thanksgiving to celebrate the victory of the Revolutionary War.

3) Abraham Lincoln – On October 3, 1863, President Lincoln initiated the FIRST ANNUAL DAY OF THANKSGIVING in the midst of the Civil War.

I. BIBLICAL THANKSGIVING RESULTS IN BEING FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT – EPHESIANS 5:18-20.

A. Being "Filled with the Spirit" is NOT to be confused with the INDWELLING or the BAPTISM of the Spirit.

B. Being "Filled with the Spirit" is a COMMAND for the believers to allow the Holy Spirit to CONTROL them through the OBEDIENCE of the Scripture.

C. Being "Filled with the Spirit" produces THREE SPECIFIC CHARACTERISTICS:

1. Edifying Others – Vs. 19
2. Giving Thanks unto God – Vs. 20
3. Submitting to One Another – Vs. 21

NOTE: **"GIVING THANKS FOR ALL THINGS"** involves *THANKING GOD FOR WHO HE IS AND FOR ALL HE HAS DONE FOR US IN CHRIST.*

NOTE: **"GIVING THANKS FOR ALL THINGS"** is the *NATURAL RESULT OF BEING "FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT."*

ILLUSTRATION:

II. BIBLICAL THANKSGIVING RELATES TO ANTICIPATING GOD'S ANSWERS TO OUR PRAYERS – PHILIPPIANS 4:6

A. The Pattern for Practical Living

1. Be Careful for Nothing – **Do not worry or be anxious about anything.**

a. Fear and worry indicate a **lack of trust** in God's wisdom, sovereignty and power.

b. Trusting in the Lord suppresses fear and worry.

2. Be Prayerful in Everything

-All of our difficulties are **within the scope of God's purpose for us** and as we pray in the midst of those difficulties we see God at work in our lives.

B. A Pattern for Thanksgiving

1. Pray for **everything** we face.
2. Thank God for what **He will do through answered prayer.**

NOTE: With every burden we bathe in prayer, we should **thank God** for:

- a. His Promise to Answer Prayer

- b. His Power to Answer Prayer
- c. His Provision through Answered Prayer

ILLUSTRATION:

III. BIBLICAL THANKSGIVING RESPONDS TO THE ABILITY TO SERVE GOD – COLOSSIANS 3:17

NOTE: “Thanksgiving” is a SUB-THEME of Colossians as it is mentioned 6 times in the book: 1:3, 1:12, 2:7, 3:15, 3:17, 4:2.

A. The Privilege of Serving the Lord

1. The **ENTIRE LIFE** of the believer is to be committed to serving the Lord. **“WHATSOEVER YE DO IN WORD OR DEED, DO ALL”**
2. Everything we do is to be done **“IN THE NAME OF THE LORD.”**
 - a. So that He receives the Glory
 - b. So that WE are kept Pure

B. The Purpose of Thanking the Lord

1. For Him Saving Us
2. For Him Having Confidence in Us
3. For Him Using Us

NOTE: Neglecting THANKGIVING unto God for the ABILITY He has given us to serve Him is the **SIN OF PRESUMPTIOUSNESS – TAKING PERSONAL CREDIT FOR WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN US.**

ILLUSTRATION:

IV. BIBLICAL THANKSGIVING RESPECTS THE WILL OF GOD

1 THESSALONIANS 5:18

- A. “Thanklessness” is a Mark of Unbelief – Romans 1:21
- B. “Thanklessness” is a Mark of the Last Days – 2 Timothy 3:1-5
- C. “Thanksgiving” is a Mark of Obedience to God – 1 Thessalonians 5:18
 1. God’s Word Commands us to be Thankful unto Him.
 2. Giving Thanks unto God causes us to:
 - a. Focus on What God has Done
 - b. Depend on What God is Doing
 - c. Rejoice on What will Do

NOTE: A **Thankless Christian** is a DEFEATED AND DISOBEDIENT CHRISTIAN but a **Thankful Christian** is a VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN.

ILLUSTRATION:

LESSON: BE THANKFUL TO GOD AND BE BLESSED BY GOD!