

First Thessalonians 5:18

5:18 Paul commands giving of thanks as God's will in Christ Jesus.

1. Let us notice a few things from our text directly before comparing other Scriptures.
 - a. Thanksgiving is not only for those things you wanted, but for all things as well.
 - b. It is not enough to be thankful in your heart, you must give it to the Lord.
 - c. This duty is set apart by the Spirit's special recognition of it as God's will.
 - d. It is specially a duty of Christians, and more is due for Christ than anything else.
2. The Lord should never have to say of us, "But where are the nine?" (Luke 17:11-19).
3. Even when bringing our petitions, we come with thanksgiving (Phil 4:6-7; Col 4:2).
4. Under the Old Testament, God demanded a thankful people (De 28:47; Ps 92:1; 100:4).
5. Under the Old Testament, true sacrifice was thanksgiving (Psalm 69:30-32; Hos 14:2).
6. Under the New Testament, God demands a thankful people (Col 3:17; Eph 5:18-20).
7. Under the New Testament, true sacrifice is still verbal thanksgiving (Hebrews 13:15).
8. We must be thankful at all times, in all circumstances, and for all things by these texts, yet this rule does not include thanks for our sins or adversities directly, but indirectly.
9. Unthankfulness blinds men and leads to sodomy and other perversions (Romans 1:21).
10. And a trait of the perilous times of the last days would be unthankfulness (II Tim 3:1-2).
11. We may say that thanksgiving includes at least the following points of reference.
 - a. We take notice of the fact that it has come by the mercy and goodness of God.
 - b. We place a value upon His blessing in comparison to what was or could be.
 - c. We admit the great difference between His goodness and our own unworthiness.
 - d. We specifically bless and praise Him for what He has done in the matter.
12. Ignoring circumstances, we should be thankful for salvation (II Thes 2:13; II Cor 9:15).
13. Consult other sermon outlines for much more detail regarding thanksgiving in the Bible.