

# Thanksgiving 2015

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*“Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine?”*

*Luke 17:17*

I. The JUDGMENT WITHOUT THANKSGIVING Is God’s Judgment for Neglecting Proper Thankfulness.

A. The abundance of all things can turn into the want of all things.

1. (Deuteronomy 28:47-48) -- <sup>47</sup> Because thou servedst not the LORD thy God with joyfulness, and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things; <sup>48</sup> Therefore shalt thou serve thine enemies which the LORD shall send against thee, in hunger, and in thirst, and in nakedness, and in want of all things: and he shall put a yoke of iron upon thy neck, until he have destroyed thee.
2. Joyfulness and gladness of heart should characterize a people blessed as we are.
3. Destruction and the want of all things will be God’s judgment for no thankfulness.

B. Sodomy and other wicked perversions are God’s righteous recompense.

1. (Romans 1:18-27) -- <sup>18</sup> For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; <sup>19</sup> Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. <sup>20</sup> For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: <sup>21</sup> Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. <sup>22</sup> Professing themselves to be wise, they became

fools, <sup>23</sup> And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. <sup>24</sup> Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: <sup>25</sup> Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. <sup>26</sup> For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: <sup>27</sup> And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.

2. The natural creation provides plenty of visible evidence to prove God's existence.
  3. But men neither glorify Him nor are thankful when they know of certainty He is.
  4. So God turns them over to reprobate minds to engage in perversity like sodomy.
- C. The perilous times of the last days would be marked by no thankfulness.
1. (2 Timothy 3:1-2) -- <sup>1</sup> This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. <sup>2</sup> For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,
- D. While our nation will celebrate Thanksgiving this week, yet we are very unthankful.
1. The Pilgrims had the original to thank God for their preservation and blessing.

2. But now it is merely Turkey Day, football games, thick newspapers, heavy retail advertising, preparation for shopping the next day, and Baalmass preparations.
- E. America should prepare to meet God as the prophet Amos warned Israel.
1. (Amos 4:12) -- <sup>12</sup>Therefore thus will I do unto thee, O Israel: and because I will do this unto thee, prepare to meet thy God, O Israel.
- II. The RESPONSIBILITY OF THANKSGIVING Is the Importance God Places on this Aspect of Worship.
- A. It is the will of God in Christ Jesus for us to be thankful for everything.
1. (1 Thessalonians 5:18) -- <sup>18</sup>In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.
- B. We must enter into the worship of God with hearts glad in thanksgiving.
1. (Psalm 100) -- <sup>1</sup>A Psalm of praise. Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. <sup>2</sup>Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. <sup>3</sup>Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. <sup>4</sup>Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. <sup>5</sup>For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations. (Psalm Meditation in Preparatory Email)
- C. As we expect our beneficiaries to thank us, God deserves the same.
1. (Psalm 26:6-7) -- <sup>6</sup>I will wash mine hands in innocency: so will I compass thine altar, O LORD: <sup>7</sup>That I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all thy wondrous works.
  2. (Psalm 95:2) -- <sup>2</sup>Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms.

D. Since it is a good thing to give thanks, is it not our duty to give it?

1. (Psalm 92:1) -- <sup>1</sup> A Psalm or Song for the sabbath day. It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High:

E. Paul exhorted the churches of the N.T. to thanks.

1. (Colossians 2:6-7) -- <sup>6</sup> As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: <sup>7</sup> Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

2. (Colossians 3:15-17) -- <sup>15</sup> And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. <sup>17</sup> And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

3. (Colossians 4:2) -- <sup>2</sup> Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;

4. (1 Thessalonians 5:18) -- <sup>18</sup> In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

F. Rather than foolish talking and jesting like pagans, we ought to give thanks.

1. (Ephesians 5:3-7) -- <sup>3</sup> But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; <sup>4</sup> Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. <sup>5</sup> For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. <sup>6</sup> Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. <sup>7</sup> Be not ye therefore

partakers with them.

G. We are commanded to be filled with the Spirit and give thanks.

1. (Ephesians 5:18-20) -- <sup>18</sup> And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; <sup>19</sup> Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; <sup>20</sup> Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

H. Peace that passes understanding results from trusting God with thanksgiving.

1. (Philippians 4:6) -- <sup>6</sup> Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

III. The QUALITIES OF THANKSGIVING Is the Definition of the Essential Aspects of this Grace.

A. Mere enjoyment of a thing is not thanksgiving: surely nine lepers enjoyed their cleansing; America enjoys her abundance and prosperity; but she does not thank the Giver for them. (Luke 17:11-19 read by Adam)

B. Thanksgiving recognizes blessing of gift and Giver and admits we don't deserve either.

IV. The GLORY OF THANKSGIVING Is the Exalted Status of Simple Thanksgiving to God.

A. Thanksgiving is a sacrifice to God of the fruit of our lips. And the altar of our mouths should continually have a fire burning with sacrifices upon it.

1. (Hebrews 13:15) -- <sup>15</sup> By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

B. Consider the times thanksgiving is called a sacrifice.

1. (Psalm 107:22) -- <sup>22</sup> And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare his works with rejoicing.

2. (Psalm 116:17) -- <sup>17</sup> I will offer to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the LORD.
  3. (Jonah 2:9) -- <sup>9</sup> But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD.
- C. We magnify God through thanksgiving more than with burnt sacrifices.
1. (Psalm 69:30-32) -- <sup>30</sup> I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving. <sup>31</sup> This also shall please the LORD better than an ox or bullock that hath horns and hoofs. <sup>32</sup> The humble shall see this, and be glad: and your heart shall live that seek God.
- D. The sacrifice of thanksgiving – the calves of our lips – brings God’s mercy.
1. (Hosea 14:1-2) -- <sup>1</sup> O Israel, return unto the LORD thy God; for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity. <sup>2</sup> Take with you words, and turn to the LORD: say unto him, Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously: so will we render the calves of our lips.
- E. Heaven shall ring with the thanksgiving of men and beasts.
1. (Revelation 4:9) -- <sup>9</sup> And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever,
  2. (Revelation 7:11-12) -- <sup>11</sup> And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, <sup>12</sup> Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.
  3. (Revelation 11:16-17) -- <sup>16</sup> And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God, <sup>17</sup> Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou

hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.

v. The DEMONSTRATION OF THANKSGIVING Are Those Men Who Were Known for Thankfulness.

A. Jacob thanked God for His many favors and truth and His deliverance.

1. (Genesis 32:10) -- <sup>10</sup> I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies, and of all the truth, which thou hast shewed unto thy servant; for with my staff I passed over this Jordan; and now I am become two bands.
2. (Genesis 35:1-3) -- <sup>1</sup> And God said unto Jacob, Arise, go up to Bethel, and dwell there: and make there an altar unto God, that appeared unto thee when thou fleddest from the face of Esau thy brother. <sup>2</sup> Then Jacob said unto his household, and to all that were with him, Put away the strange gods that are among you, and be clean, and change your garments: <sup>3</sup> And let us arise, and go up to Bethel; and I will make there an altar unto God, who answered me in the day of my distress, and was with me in the way which I went.

B. Israel annually kept the Passover to remember and be thankful.

1. (Exodus 12:14) -- <sup>14</sup> And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the LORD throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever.
2. (Exodus 12:42) -- <sup>42</sup> It is a night to be much observed unto the LORD for bringing them out from the land of Egypt: this is that night of the LORD to be observed of all the children of Israel in their generations.
3. (Exodus 13:1-16) -- <sup>1</sup> And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, <sup>2</sup> Sanctify unto me all the firstborn, whatsoever openeth the womb among the children of Israel, both of man and of beast: it is mine. <sup>3</sup> And Moses said unto the people, Remember this day, in which ye came out from Egypt, out of the house of

bondage; for by strength of hand the LORD brought you out from this place: there shall no leavened bread be eaten. <sup>4</sup> This day came ye out in the month Abib. <sup>5</sup> And it shall be when the LORD shall bring thee into the land of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, which he sware unto thy fathers to give thee, a land flowing with milk and honey, that thou shalt keep this service in this month. <sup>6</sup> Seven days thou shalt eat unleavened bread, and in the seventh day shall be a feast to the LORD. <sup>7</sup> Unleavened bread shall be eaten seven days; and there shall no leavened bread be seen with thee, neither shall there be leaven seen with thee in all thy quarters. <sup>8</sup> And thou shalt shew thy son in that day, saying, This is done because of that which the LORD did unto me when I came forth out of Egypt. <sup>9</sup> And it shall be for a sign unto thee upon thine hand, and for a memorial between thine eyes, that the LORD'S law may be in thy mouth: for with a strong hand hath the LORD brought thee out of Egypt. <sup>10</sup> Thou shalt therefore keep this ordinance in his season from year to year. <sup>11</sup> And it shall be when the LORD shall bring thee into the land of the Canaanites, as he sware unto thee and to thy fathers, and shall give it thee, <sup>12</sup> That thou shalt set apart unto the LORD all that openeth the matrix, and every firstling that cometh of a beast which thou hast; the males shall be the LORD'S. <sup>13</sup> And every firstling of an ass thou shalt redeem with a lamb; and if thou wilt not redeem it, then thou shalt break his neck: and all the firstborn of man among thy children shalt thou redeem. <sup>14</sup> And it shall be when thy son asketh thee in time to come, saying, What is this? that thou shalt say unto him, By strength of hand the LORD brought us out from Egypt, from the house of bondage: <sup>15</sup> And it came to pass, when Pharaoh would hardly let us go, that the LORD slew all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man, and

the firstborn of beast: therefore I sacrifice to the LORD all that openeth the matrix, being males; but all the firstborn of my children I redeem. <sup>16</sup> And it shall be for a token upon thine hand, and for frontlets between thine eyes: for by strength of hand the LORD brought us forth out of Egypt.

C. Moses and Miriam led Israel in a glorious thanksgiving song at the Red Sea (**Ex 15:1-21**). **Read by Joel.**

D. Israel had laws for sacrifices and offerings of thanksgiving.

1. (Leviticus 7:11-15) -- <sup>11</sup> And this is the law of the sacrifice of peace offerings, which he shall offer unto the LORD. <sup>12</sup> If he offer it for a thanksgiving, then he shall offer with the sacrifice of thanksgiving unleavened cakes mingled with oil, and unleavened wafers anointed with oil, and cakes mingled with oil, of fine flour, fried. <sup>13</sup> Besides the cakes, he shall offer for his offering leavened bread with the sacrifice of thanksgiving of his peace offerings. <sup>14</sup> And of it he shall offer one out of the whole oblation for an heave offering unto the LORD, and it shall be the priest's that sprinkleth the blood of the peace offerings. <sup>15</sup> And the flesh of the sacrifice of his peace offerings for thanksgiving shall be eaten the same day that it is offered; he shall not leave any of it until the morning.
2. (Leviticus 22:29) -- <sup>29</sup> And when ye will offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving unto the LORD, offer it at your own will.

E. Levites were appointed for giving thanks.

1. (1 Chronicles 16:4) -- <sup>4</sup> And he appointed certain of the Levites to minister before the ark of the LORD, and to record, and to thank and praise the LORD God of Israel:
2. (1 Chronicles 16:7) -- <sup>7</sup> Then on that day David delivered first this psalm to thank the LORD into the hand of Asaph and his brethren.
3. (1 Chronicles 23:30) -- <sup>30</sup> And to stand every morning to thank and praise the LORD, and likewise at even;

4. (2 Chronicles 5:11-14) -- <sup>11</sup> And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place: (for all the priests that were present were sanctified, and did not then wait by course: <sup>12</sup> Also the Levites which were the singers, all of them of Asaph, of Heman, of Jeduthun, with their sons and their brethren, being arrayed in white linen, having cymbals and psalteries and harps, stood at the east end of the altar, and with them an hundred and twenty priests sounding with trumpets:) <sup>13</sup> It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD; and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of musick, and praised the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever: that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the LORD; <sup>14</sup> So that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of God.
  5. (2 Chronicles 31:2) -- <sup>2</sup> And Hezekiah appointed the courses of the priests and the Levites after their courses, every man according to his service, the priests and Levites for burnt offerings and for peace offerings, to minister, and to give thanks, and to praise in the gates of the tents of the LORD.
- F. David was greatly known for his glorious giving of thanks to God.
1. (Preparatory Reading) (1 Chronicles 29:10-16) -- <sup>10</sup> Wherefore David blessed the LORD before all the congregation: and David said, Blessed be thou, LORD God of Israel our father, for ever and ever. <sup>11</sup> Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all. <sup>12</sup> Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great,

and to give strength unto all. <sup>13</sup> Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name. <sup>14</sup> But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee. <sup>15</sup> For we are strangers before thee, and sojourners, as were all our fathers: our days on the earth are as a shadow, and there is none abiding. <sup>16</sup> O LORD our God, all this store that we have prepared to build thee an house for thine holy name cometh of thine hand, and is all thine own.

G. David described thanking God before much people in the great congregation.

1. (Psalm 35:18) -- <sup>18</sup> I will give thee thanks in the great congregation: I will praise thee among much people.

H. David spoke of giving God thanks at midnight for his righteous judgments.

1. (Psalm 119:62) -- <sup>62</sup> At midnight I will rise to give thanks unto thee because of thy righteous judgments.

I. Daniel gave thanks on at least two different occasions in Babylon.

1. (Daniel 2:19-23) -- <sup>19</sup> Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven. <sup>20</sup> Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: <sup>21</sup> And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding: <sup>22</sup> He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him. <sup>23</sup> I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee: for thou hast now made known unto us the king's matter.
2. (Daniel 6:10) -- <sup>10</sup> Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in

his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.

J. Even at the Last Supper, as Jesus instituted communion, He gave thanks.

1. (Matthew 26:27) -- <sup>27</sup> And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, **Drink ye all of it;**

K. Simeon and Anna gave glorious thanks to God for the gift of Jesus.

1. (Luke 2:25-35) -- <sup>25</sup> And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him. <sup>26</sup> And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ. <sup>27</sup> And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law, <sup>28</sup> Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, <sup>29</sup> Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: <sup>30</sup> For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, <sup>31</sup> Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; <sup>32</sup> A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel. <sup>33</sup> And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him. <sup>34</sup> And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against; <sup>35</sup> (Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.

2. (Luke 2:36-38) -- <sup>36</sup> And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity; <sup>37</sup> And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God

with fastings and prayers night and day. <sup>38</sup> And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

L. Paul thanked God for something as simple as brethren to encourage him.

1. (Acts 28:15) -- <sup>15</sup> And from thence, when the brethren heard of us, they came to meet us as far as Appii forum, and The three taverns: whom when Paul saw, he thanked God, and took courage.

VI. The BENEFITS OF THANKSGIVING Are Those Benefits God Promises Thankful People.

A. If we offer thanksgiving to God, He will hear us and save us, when we call.

1. (Psalm 50:14-15) -- <sup>14</sup> Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High: <sup>15</sup> And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.

B. Praise includes thanksgiving, and God reveals His salvation to the thankful.

1. (Psalm 50:23) -- <sup>23</sup> Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me: and to him that ordereth his conversation aright will I shew the salvation of God.

C. God keeps a book of remembrance to identify those who speak of Him.

1. (Malachi 3:16-18) -- <sup>16</sup> Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name. <sup>17</sup> And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him. <sup>18</sup> Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.

VII. The REASONS FOR THANKSGIVING Are Those Things for Which Wise Men Will Thank God.

A. The Psalmist called for thanksgiving for God's **holiness**.

1. (Psalm 30:4) -- <sup>4</sup> Sing unto the LORD, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.
2. (Psalm 97:12) -- <sup>12</sup> Rejoice in the LORD, ye righteous; and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.

B. The **goodness and mercy** of God are obvious objects.

1. (Psalm 106:1) -- <sup>1</sup> Praise ye the LORD. O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.
2. (Psalm 107:1) -- <sup>1</sup> O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.
3. (Psalm 136:1-3) -- <sup>1</sup> O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever. <sup>2</sup> O give thanks unto the God of gods: for his mercy endureth for ever. <sup>3</sup> O give thanks to the Lord of lords: for his mercy endureth for ever.
4. (Psalm 136:26) -- <sup>26</sup> O give thanks unto the God of heaven: for his mercy endureth for ever.

C. David was thankful for God's **righteous judgments – the Word of God**.

1. (Psalm 119:62) -- <sup>62</sup> At midnight I will rise to give thanks unto thee because of thy righteous judgments.

D. Paul spoke of an **unspeakable gift**, which is Jesus Christ.

1. (2 Corinthians 9:15) -- <sup>15</sup> Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.
2. (Luke 2:25-35) -- <sup>25</sup> And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him. <sup>26</sup> And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ. <sup>27</sup> And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him

after the custom of the law,<sup>28</sup> Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said,<sup>29</sup> Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word:<sup>30</sup> For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,<sup>31</sup> Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;<sup>32</sup> A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.<sup>33</sup> And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him.<sup>34</sup> And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against;<sup>35</sup> (Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.

E. Paul thanked God through Christ for **deliverance from the body of sin**.

1. (Romans 7:25) --<sup>25</sup> I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

F. Paul thanked God for **grace** in various churches, and so should we.

1. (Romans 6:17) --<sup>17</sup> But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

2. (1 Corinthians 1:4) --<sup>4</sup> I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ;

3. (Ephesians 1:15-16) --<sup>15</sup> Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints,<sup>16</sup> Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;

4. (Colossians 1:12-13) --<sup>12</sup> Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:<sup>13</sup> Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

5. (1 Thessalonians 2:13) -- <sup>13</sup> For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.
  6. (2 Thessalonians 1:3) -- <sup>3</sup> We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;
  7. (2 Thessalonians 2:13) -- <sup>13</sup> But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:
  8. (2 Corinthians 4:15) -- <sup>15</sup> For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God.
- G. Paul thanked God for **his ministry**, and so should all ministers and people.
1. (1 Timothy 1:12) -- <sup>12</sup> And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;
- H. Our **hope of the resurrection and eternal life** should cause thanksgiving.
1. (1 Corinthians 15:57) -- <sup>57</sup> But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
- I. Jesus thanked God for **revealing wisdom to babes**. We should surely do so.
1. (Matthew 11:25) -- <sup>25</sup> At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.
- J. We must be thankful for God **converting us to the truth**.

1. (2 Thessalonians 2:11-14) -- <sup>11</sup> And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: <sup>12</sup> That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness. <sup>13</sup> But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: <sup>14</sup> Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.
2. (1 Thessalonians 2:13) -- <sup>13</sup> For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

K. Even **ability and willingness** to give to the Lord deserves thanksgiving.

1. (1 Chronicles 29:6-14) -- <sup>6</sup> Then the chief of the fathers and princes of the tribes of Israel, and the captains of thousands and of hundreds, with the rulers of the king's work, offered willingly, <sup>7</sup> And gave for the service of the house of God of gold five thousand talents and ten thousand drams, and of silver ten thousand talents, and of brass eighteen thousand talents, and one hundred thousand talents of iron. <sup>8</sup> And they with whom precious stones were found gave them to the treasure of the house of the LORD, by the hand of Jehiel the Gershonite. <sup>9</sup> Then the people rejoiced, for that they offered willingly, because with perfect heart they offered willingly to the LORD: and David the king also rejoiced with great joy. <sup>10</sup> Wherefore David blessed the LORD before all the congregation: and David said, Blessed be thou, LORD God of Israel our father, for ever and ever. <sup>11</sup> Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the

heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all. <sup>12</sup> Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all. <sup>13</sup> Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name. <sup>14</sup> But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee.

L. **Every thing and all things** are sufficient for thanksgiving.

1. (Ephesians 5:20) -- <sup>20</sup> Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;
2. (1 Thessalonians 5:18) -- <sup>18</sup> In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

VIII. The PRACTICE OF THANKSGIVING Are Those Means of Increasing Our Giving of It to God.

A. Give thanks before eating.

1. (John 6:23) -- <sup>23</sup> (Howbeit there came other boats from Tiberias nigh unto the place where they did eat bread, after that the Lord had given thanks:)
2. (Acts 27:35) -- <sup>35</sup> And when he had thus spoken, he took bread, and gave thanks to God in presence of them all: and when he had broken it, he began to eat.
3. (Romans 14:6) -- <sup>6</sup> He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks.
4. (1 Corinthians 11:24) -- <sup>24</sup> And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, **Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.**
5. (1 Timothy 4:3-5) -- <sup>3</sup> Forbidding to marry, and commanding to

abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. <sup>4</sup> For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: <sup>5</sup> For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

- B. We should never pray without giving thanks as part of our prayer.
  - 1. (Philippians 4:6) -- <sup>6</sup> Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.
  - 2. (Colossians 4:2) -- <sup>2</sup> Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;
- C. An annual ordinance such as our Thanksgiving Day is certainly righteous.
  - 1. (Exodus 13:1-16) -- (Previously referenced in full) <sup>14</sup> And it shall be when thy son asketh thee in time to come, saying, What is this? that thou shalt say unto him, By strength of hand the LORD brought us out from Egypt, from the house of bondage: <sup>15</sup> And it came to pass, when Pharaoh would hardly let us go, that the LORD slew all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man, and the firstborn of beast: therefore I sacrifice to the LORD all that openeth the matrix, being males; but all the firstborn of my children I redeem. <sup>16</sup> And it shall be for a token upon thine hand, and for frontlets between thine eyes: for by strength of hand the LORD brought us forth out of Egypt.
- D. The churches of Christ were known for public thanksgiving and “Amen”.
  - 1. (1 Corinthians 14:16-17) -- <sup>16</sup> Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest? <sup>17</sup> For thou verily givest thanks well, but the other is not edified.

2. We must take certain care that we emphasize giving thanks and blessing to God.
  3. Opportunities for public thanksgiving are not for relating ordinary experiences.
- E. We must take the time to observe and consider the Providence of God.
1. (Psalm 107:43) -- <sup>43</sup> Whoso is wise, and will observe these things, even they shall understand the lovingkindness of the LORD.
- F. God required of Israel a practice we should observe from time to time.
1. (Preparatory Reading) (Deuteronomy 14:23-26) -- <sup>23</sup> And thou shalt eat before the LORD thy God, in the place which he shall choose to place his name there, the tithe of thy corn, of thy wine, and of thine oil, and the firstlings of thy herds and of thy flocks; that thou mayest learn to fear the LORD thy God always. <sup>24</sup> And if the way be too long for thee, so that thou art not able to carry it; or if the place be too far from thee, which the LORD thy God shall choose to set his name there, when the LORD thy God hath blessed thee: <sup>25</sup> Then shalt thou turn it into money, and bind up the money in thine hand, and shalt go unto the place which the LORD thy God shall choose: <sup>26</sup> And thou shalt bestow that money for whatsoever thy soul lusteth after, for oxen, or for sheep, or for wine, or for strong drink, or for whatsoever thy soul desireth: and thou shalt eat there before the LORD thy God, and thou shalt rejoice, thou, and thine household,