

**11-13-22**  
**ASPECTS OF GIVING THANKS TO GOD**  
**HOW WOULD WE DEFINE WHAT IT IS TO GIVE THANKS TO GOD?**

This is our annual Church family Thanksgiving day. Any day is a good day to give thanks to God. However this is the time of the year that we set aside a day to especially give thanks. It is a great holiday. There is only one time that I remember my father praying at a meal and that was on Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is one of those holidays that is hard to corrupt, but leave it to the world and I am sure they will find a way to corrupt it. It used to be that all the shops were closed on Thanksgiving.. and the Friday after Thanksgiving became known as "Black Friday" because it was the busiest shopping day of the year. Everyone had off and the stores were packed.

Since we are not having an evening service tonight.. I decided to take a break from our through the Bible study and I thought it good to just focus in on **"ASPECTS GIVING THANKS TO GOD.. "**

We are living in a world that has lost contact with God as their creator, and most people do not know how to give thanks to God..

My wife and I like to watch documentaries or other things while we exercise on our porch. My son mentioned a History Channel reality show where people are dropped of in some remote spot of the world and are left there to survive.

Now the people on the show are suppose to be professional survivalist, people who know nature and how to rough it.

What I noticed on this show is that a lot of these people are the kind of people to really love nature and in fact some of them border on being NEW AGERS.. I mean to the point that they reverence nature. Some of them seem to even be pantheists..

I noticed that those who are supposed to be so in love with nature and the natural world tend to reverence the natural world so much that when they are super hungry and they get a fish they tend to thank the fish instead of thanking God. They thank the land, they thank a squirrel, and a grouse.. These all pretend to be so in tune to nature so much so that I think nature becomes their god..

I cringe when I hear them do this. It is obvious that they think that this is getting in touch with mother nature. I have yet to see one of these people be able to last the longest.

They express thanks, but their thanks is to the creation rather than to the creator.

It reminds me of this verse:

***Romans 1:25 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.***

This becomes so crazy that on this reality show I actually see people quitting because they can't stand having to kill animals to eat. One person cried every time they had to kill a rabbit to eat it. Everyone of these people who are so touchy feely about nature, usually are not treated very well by nature. They usually always have to quit early.

Now there is a bad philosophy permeating our society today. It is the religion of pantheism. The belief that nature is god and god is nature.

What is ironic is that every one of these people who buy into this religion are not treated very well by their god.

Then there are those who view life as a struggle to dominate and conquer and prevail over the struggles and are thankful to something greater than the squirrel, or rabbit, or fish.. They seem to fare better, even those who may not be as godly or spiritual as they should.

Consider the first Thanksgiving in this country was celebrated by a group of pilgrim survivalist. They were not professionals; they just came here with their faith in God and sought his blessing in their endeavor. After that first year of hardships it was evident that they succeeded and were going to be able to survive in this wilderness. That is when they celebrated the first Thanksgiving in this country. We have been following their example ever since. I do not think when they shot their turkeys for their meal that they kissed the turkey and said THANK YOU TURKEY.. I don't believe that when they shot a deer they thanked the deer, nor did they thank the land. I think they thanked their creator for all he did for them.

Consider on this Holiday we need to know who we are thankful to..

Romans 1:25 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.

How foolish it is to be thankful to the creation and not be thankful to the creator.

***I. CONSIDER THE FIRST THING WE NEED TO DETERMINE IS WHO WE ARE TO BE THANKFUL TO..***

I think there are a lot of people that do not know how to give thanks because they do not know God. We need to learn to be thankful to the living God who giveth us richly all things to enjoy..." I Timothy 6:17

This world has been permeated with such bad philosophies that magnify the creation above the creator and what is ironic is that those who buy into this false religion do not fare so well in this hostile creation.

Man is suppose to dominate the creation. God gave us dominion over the creation. When you reverence and worship the creation rather than their creator, when you become thankful to the creation rather than the creator, your idolatry does not treat you so well..

## **II. CONSIDER: What is it to Give Thanks?**

The act of rending thanks, It is the act of expressing gratitude for favors or mercies bestowed..

Nature is not merciful at all. Nature is cruel, it is brutal.

That is not the way it was originally intended to be. God put man in the garden of Eden, a beautiful place to live. A place of abundance etc. Sin is what has caused this world to be hostile. Through the grace of God , God can teach us to overcome these hardships and he gives us his blessings...

So we should thank God for his mercies.

Lamentations 3:22 [It is of] the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

Lamentations 3:23 [They are] new every morning: great [is] thy faithfulness.

Lamentations 3:39 Wherefore doth a living man complain, a man for the punishment of his sins?

What we deserve for our sin is death..

When we get anything less than that it is his mercy..

Jeremiah says, here is the irony of it all.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin [is] death; but the gift of God [is] eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

When we do not get death it is because of his mercies. Can we not be thankful for this?!!

## **III. CONSIDER: Why is it so hard for people to give thanks to God?**

Expressing gratitude for favors or mercies... bestowed

When men do not see that they deserve God's wrath because of their sin.. They actually think they deserve more.. and they lack humility.

**1. Giving thanks.. Precludes that the one giving thanks has an attitude of humility....**

Note the virtues of humility involved

A. To give thanks to God.. is expressing the fact that you have become a recipient of his favor or mercy..

B. To give thanks to God ... is to acknowledge your lack and his provision

**2. Giving Thanks goes against our sin nature..**

I Corinthians 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know [them], because they are spiritually discerned.

Often people are blinded to the blessings that God has given to them..

Humility.. is not a popular virtue....

People in their sinful, natural condition are proud..

Proud people are not comfortable thanking anyone for anything, let alone thanking God..

II Timothy 3:1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

II Timothy 3:2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

II Timothy 3:3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

II Timothy 3:4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

II Timothy 3:5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

II Timothy 3:6 For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,

II Timothy 3:7 Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

**WHY IS IT SO HARD FOR PEOPLE TO BE THANKFUL?**

**2. Because of sin.. Sin robs us of our ability to thank God..**

Dissect the first sin and you will see at its root Adam and Eve were not appreciating all that God gave them..

So they became discontent..

Imagine what their unthankful hearts caused them to lose..

- A. *Instead of being thankful for all the trees that they had available to them.. they focused in on the one that was forbidden..***
- B. *They traded the one bite of the forbidden fruit.. and lost access to the fruit that would have given them eternal life.***

Genesis 3:22 And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:

Genesis 3:23 Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.

Genesis 3:24 So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

God had to intervene to make things in this world more difficult |

- C. *They traded residence.. in the garden .. for residence among thorns and thistles..***

All because they did not appreciate what they had...

Imagine... all mankind's suffering is because our forefathers did not appreciate what they had and thought they wanted something else...

- D. *When what a person does not make any sense.. look for the sin!***

Sin does not make sense!

Why would Adam trade the tree of life for this tree of Knowledge.. good evil

Why would Adam .. choose thorns over the garden..

Why would Adam even risk death ...

#### **IV. *CONSIDER HOW PEOPLE MANIFEST AN UNGRATEFUL ATTITUDE***

- 1. *Plain Old Neglect and lack of reverence.. God tried to reason with his people in Malachi***

Malachi 1:6 A son honoureth [his] father, and a servant his master: if then I [be] a father, where [is] mine honour? and if I [be] a master, where [is] my fear? saith the

LORD of hosts unto you, O priests, that despise my name. And ye say, Wherein have we despised thy name?

Malachi 1:7 Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar; and ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee? In that ye say, The table of the LORD [is] contemptible.

Malachi 1:8 And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, [is it] not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, [is it] not evil? offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the LORD of hosts.

Consider the neglect and lack of respect and reverence we show God!

Luke 14:16 Then said he unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many:

Luke 14:17 And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready.

Luke 14:18 And they all with one [consent] began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused.

Luke 14:19 And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused.

Luke 14:20 And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.

Luke 14:21 So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind.

Luke 14:22 And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room.

Luke 14:23 And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel [them] to come in, that my house may be filled.

Luke 14:24 For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper.

The greatest reason people are not thankful to God is because they do not reverence God for who he is..

People have a misconception of his power and who He is...

In Malachi.. God indicted the nation for not respecting Him for who He is..

Imagine the King of the universe inviting us to fellowship with him and people making excuses as to why they could not accept His invitation. That is the point of the parable of the invitation to partake of the supper.

We have no idea who we are dealing when it comes to our God and King!

Because people do not reverence Him as they should they become unthankful...

**2. People manifest a spirit of Ungratefulness by complaining..**

Numbers 14:2 And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness!

Numbers 14:3 And wherefore hath the LORD brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt?

Numbers 14:4 And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt.

Numbers 14:11 And the LORD said unto Moses, How long will this people provoke me? and how long will it be ere they believe me, for all the signs which I have shewed among them?

Numbers 14:12 I will smite them with the pestilence, and disinherit them, and will make of thee a greater nation and mightier than they.

Numbers 14:13 And Moses said unto the LORD, Then the Egyptians shall hear [it], (for thou broughtest up this people in thy might from among them;)

Gripping and complaining are all outward manifestations of ungratefulness.

The children of Israel were perfect examples of this. God delivered them from Pharaoh and brought them out of Egypt with a mighty hand, he performed miracles for them. He brought supernatural plagues on Egypt and Pharaoh and they still gripped and complained. He feed them with Manna every morning. He brought forth water out of a rock. They had a supernatural manifestation of God by day and night. Yet they still gripped and complained.

This is the nature of sin..

#### ***IV. HOW DO PEOPLE MANIFEST A SPIRIT OF GRATEFULNESS HOW DO WE GO ABOUT IT..***

***How do we express thanks to God..***

##### ***1. In the Old Testament they did so by giving the Lord an offering..***

Leviticus 7:11 And this [is] the law of the sacrifice of peace offerings, which he shall offer unto the LORD.

Leviticus 7:12 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.

Leviticus 7:13 Besides the cakes, he shall offer [for] his offering leavened bread with the sacrifice of thanksgiving of his peace offerings.

Our giving is a manifestation of our gratefulness.

II Corinthians 9:7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, [so let him give]; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

Our giving is a legitimate form of giving thanks to God. In the Old Testament there was something called a thanksgiving offering.

What is interesting about the thanksgiving offering is that almost every other offering the people could eat of it in two days, but the thanksgiving offering was to be eaten in one day and not to be eaten the second. This tells me that God wanted his people to share that offering with others. He purposely made it so the offering could not be eaten the second day. So this was to encourage the person giving thanks to celebrate with others. This reminds me of the pilgrims.. why did they want to share their blessings with others (the Indians in particular.. ) Where did they get that idea? It came from the Bible. The thanksgiving offering was to be shared.

## ***2. A proper form of giving thanks is expressing thanks with our lips..***

Hebrews 13:15 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.

## ***3. We can only give thanks by having a spirit of humility before God..***

We cannot come proudly to God we need to humble ourselves.

Luke 18:10 Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican.

Luke 18:11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men [are], extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.

Luke 18:12 I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.

Luke 18:13 And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as [his] eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.

Luke 18:14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified [rather] than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

## ***V. HOW OFTEN SHOULD WE BE THANKING GOD?***

I Thessalonians 5:18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Reminds me of Job..

Job 1:20 Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped,

Job 1:21 And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.

Job 1:22 In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.

We should have a continual attitude of thanksgiving to God..



**MORNING MESSAGE 11-13-22**  
**ASPECTS OF GIVING THANKS TO GOD**  
**WHAT KEEPS US FROM BEING THANKFUL TO GOD?**

Intro: This morning in Sunday School we talked about what it is to be thankful to God what it is, how we express it, and aspects of what it means to give thanks to God.

Now we will consider the many things that will rob us of our ability to thank the Lord..

***THE GREATEST VICE IS PRIDE.. ROOT OF ALL SIN..***

***PRIDE:*** In all its subtle forms, will rob a person of their ability to be truly thankful to God..

Deuteronomy 8:11 Beware that thou forget not the LORD thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day:

Deuteronomy 8:12 Lest [when] thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt [therein];

Deuteronomy 8:13 And [when] thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied;

***Deuteronomy 8:14 Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the LORD thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage;***

Deuteronomy 8:15 Who led thee through that great and terrible wilderness, [wherein were] fiery serpents, and scorpions, and drought, where [there was] no water; who brought thee forth water out of the rock of flint;

Deuteronomy 8:16 Who fed thee in the wilderness with manna, which thy fathers knew not, that he might humble thee, and that he might prove thee, to do thee good at thy latter end;

Deuteronomy 8:17 **And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of [mine] hand hath gotten me this wealth.**

Deuteronomy 8:18 But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for [it is] he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as [it is] this day.

Deuteronomy 8:19 And it shall be, if thou do at all forget the LORD thy God, and walk after other gods, and serve them, and worship them, I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish.

***I. Pride Greatest Vice To Destroy Our Ability to Be Thankful***

- 1. Pride will Rob us of our ability to be thankful to God because those who are proud give themselves the credit for what God alone should get credit for..***

Pride.. causes us to fail to recognize the mercy and help that was given to us..

Deuteronomy 8:17 And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of [mine] hand hath gotten me this wealth.

Pride takes the credit that God alone deserves....

By the way, often we are not grateful to others for the same reason..

## **2. PRIDE ROBES US OF OUR ABILITY TO THANK GOD BECAUSE OUR PRIDE CAUSES US TO BE SELF CENTERED RATHER THAN GOD CENTERED..**

The author of sin and pride is the devil..

When he got proud.. we read what he said.. I I I I ME MY I

Isaiah 14:13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

Isaiah 14:14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

Isaiah 14:15 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

Mark 10:42 But Jesus called them [to him], and saith unto them, Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and their great ones exercise authority upon them.

Mark 10:43 But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister:

Mark 10:44 And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all.

Mark 10:45 For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

Self centered generation... Average family has 1.5 children last I checked..

WHAT IS PRODUCING IT... PART OF IT IS THE SMALLER FAMILY GENERATION...

In a smaller family there is less sharing..

In a smaller family there is more selfishness...

In a smaller family there is more money,....

In a smaller family there is less tolerance for others..

In a smaller family people are more possessive of things..

Children that are nurtured in a smaller family tend to be more self centered, and filled with pride..

IN A SMALLER FAMILY THERE IS MORE PRIDE THAT IS DEVELOPED IN THE CHILDREN..

Because those children have come to think it the norm to get all the attention..

Family of 6.. less birthday parties.. Less gifts.. less emphasis on the individual more emphasis on the family as a whole.. more working together.. more chores.. MORE HUMILITY.. FORCED ON YOU..

All this trickles down into the church.. where Paul said,

Philippians 2:21 For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's.

## **II. THE SECOND VICE THAT WILL CAUSE US TO LOOSE OUR ABILITY TO GIVE THANKS IS DISCONTENTMENT..**

Pride actually produces discontentment

PRIDE WILL ROBE US OF OUR ABILITY TO BE THANKFUL BECAUSE PRIDE WILL CAUSE US TO BECOME DISCONTENT.. AND MAKE US THINK WE DESERVE MORE...

PRIDE WILL GIVE US INORDINATE AMBITIONS

Isaiah 14:13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

Isaiah 14:14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

Isaiah 14:15 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

Ezekiel 28:17 Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.

The devil got proud .. and was no longer content with the position that God had given him..

HE WANTED MORE.. HE THOUGHT HE DESERVED MORE..

HE WANTED TO BE THE BOSS

HE WANTED TO RULE..

HE WANTED TO BE IN CONTROL..

MUCH OF OUR DISCONTMENT IS THE NEXT VICE THAT COMES AFTER PRIDE..

We think more highly of ourselves than we ought to..

SATAN CAN SNIFF PRIDE A MILE AWAY.. AND DISCONTENTMENT IS ONE OF THE ODORS.. THAT PRIDE PRODUCES..

You cannot be thankful as long as you are discontent..

Adam and Eve became discontent with what they had.. The devil made them think that God was holding back from them something more that they deserved.

To be content, you have to accept the way God made you..

To be content, you have to look at what you have been given and not what you have not been given..

It's like the story of the pack rat who set out on an adventure to collect some treasures for his nest. He sets out and finds a large chestnut, surely this will be a great treasure.. it is very close to his nest.. this is a great find..

Then he sees something else up a little further from his nest.. it is a bottle cap.. shiny bottle cap something more interesting so he drops the chestnut and trades it for the the bottle cap..

Then as he is about to turn around and head back to his nest with the bottle cap, he sees something better a little further out closer to the open field it is a shiny coin.. it is bigger and more interesting than the bottle cap.. so he drops the bottle cap and exchanges it for the quarter..

Just then something catches his eye further into the open field.. it is flopping in the wind. it is big and flat and shiny. It is so beautiful. But should he venture out into the open field? It is a piece of aluminum foil. There it is what a perfect collection for his nest. So he runs out into the open field and grabs the aluminum foil and as he is dragging that large piece of aluminum foil in the open field the sparkle of that foil reflecting in the sun catches the attention of a hawk and that hawk swoops down and snatches up that pack rat.

The lesson is this.. that pack rat had the greatest and most valuable treasure right next to his nest. He should have been content with the chestnut. His discontentment led to his ruin!

### ***III ANOTHER VICE THAT WILL ROB OUR ABILITY TO THANK GOD IS OUR VAIN IMAGINATIONS OF THIS WORLD:***

Everyone seems to have their own ideas about what life and death is all about.

Everybody thinks their ideas make the most sense. Yet man's ideas and reasonings apart from the Word of God are just vain imaginations.

There is only one authoritative and right way that is what God says in his Word.

II Corinthians 4:3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:

II Corinthians 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

Romans 1:21 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. AGAIN THE ROOT OF THESE VAIN THOUGHTS ARE HUMANISITIC PRIDE..

World fails to give God the credit and glory due his name..

**WHAT CREDIT DO THEY FAIL TO GIVE HIM:**

<b>CREDIT GOD DESERVES</b>	<b>VAIN IMAGINATIONS</b>
<b>HE MADE US</b>	<b>WE HAVE EVOLVED</b>
<b>HE MADE ALL THINGS</b>	<b>MATTER IS ETERNAL AND SELF PERPETUATING</b>
<b>HE IS ALL POWERFUL</b>	<b>NATURE IS ALL POWERFUL</b>
<b>HE IS IN CONTROL OF EVERYTHING</b>	<b>ALL THINGS HAPPEN BY CHANCE</b>
<b>HE GIVES US GOOD THINGS TO ENJOY</b>	<b>WE MAKE THE GOOD THROUGH OUR HUMANISITIC EFFORTS</b>
<b>THANKFUL</b>	<b>UNTHANKFUL</b>

**2. VAIN IMAGINATIONS CAUSE US TO FAIL TO SEE GOD'S MERCY AND HELP IN OUR LIVES..**

Romans 1:21 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.

Romans 1:22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

Romans 1:23 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.

Romans 1:24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

Those who proclaim themselves wise.. are really the fools..

There is a greater tolerance for Islam in our nation than the Bible...

People who think they are wise.. are in fact the fools.. Below are some examples:

## **THE WORLDLY WISE**

## **HOW THEY SHOW THEY ARE FOOLS**

WORLD VIEW OF FAMILY

SELF DESTRUCTING FAMILIES

THEIR VIEW OF CHILD TRAINING

PRODUCING CHILDREN TERRORS..

THEIR VIEW OF THE PLANET

FOREST FIRES.. ENERGY CRISIS

THEIR VIEW OF MARRIAGE

AIDS, ETC DYSFUNCTIONAL  
FAMILIES

### ***IV. ANOTHER VICE THAT WILL ROB US OF OUR ABILITY TO THANK GOD IS IMPROPER THINKING..***

Romans 12:3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think [of himself] more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

Can how you live and your philosophy of life stand the test of every circumstance of life good and bad? We should think soberly about this!

Can your faith stand up to the test of every circumstance of life?

Proverbs 30:7 Two [things] have I required of thee; deny me [them] not before I die:

Proverbs 30:8 Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me:

Proverbs 30:9 Lest I be full, and deny [thee], and say, Who [is] the LORD? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God [in vain].

We need to think soberly about our life..

#### ***1. THOSE WHO HAVE TOO MUCH RICHES OFTEN FORGET THEIR GOD..***

TOO MUCH WE THINK WE DESERVE.. WE THINK WE EARNED ALL THAT WE HAVE..

Some people in time of plenty forget God.. and become ungrateful..

THIS IS MOST COMMON PROBLEM ..

WE WANT WE WANT .. WE GET WE GET.. WE FORGET WE FORGET..

There is no country like our country that has such a surplus..

People forget.. the Lord..

## **2. THOSE WHO HAVE TOO LITTLE OFTEN CURSE GOD..**

TOO LITTLE WE THINK WE DESERVE MORE..

People curse his name..

I have talked to many people who when faced with trials in this life, have rejected the Lord and blasphemed his name..

Trials either draw us to the Lord.. or in some cases.. cause people to become bitter..

Hebrews 12:15 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble [you], and thereby many be defiled;

Can your philosophy of life and your purpose for life withstand the test of all potential circumstances of life?

Before I was saved I lived my life for my career and my goals in life. I had some set goals and went after them. But if what your life consists of cannot stand the test of every variable of life you are setting yourself up for a great fall. Jesus put it this way:

Matthew 10:39 He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.

I realized at the age of 21 that I could get everything I wanted in this life but it would be inevitable I would loose everything sooner or latter. So what did it matter what I gained I could not keep it. If what you live for you cannot keep, why are you chasing after it?

Back then I was a musician. And I was thinking about life and the meaning of life. So I went to one of my professors in college whose life was wrapped up in music. He was a tremendous jazz musician. I went to him one day and asked him what would happen if he was traveling somewhere and his plan went down and he found himself stranded on an island somewhere without his instrument. How would he deal with that? He looked at me and said, well I could sing..

That made no sense at all. He was a terrible singer.

I realized that someday I would loose everything I worked for, maybe in sickness maybe in death.. Maybe through circumstances beyond my control So in 1974 I gave my life to the Lord and surrendered to him. I went to Bible college and then surrendered to serve the Lord and preach.

I remember my 1st semester of seminary I had Dr. David Nettleton who was teaching Pastoral counseling. I knew that at one time he pastored a large church in the mid west, his wife died and he lost his health. He had to resign his church and went

through great trials. I went up to him after class and asked him what do you do when you're flat on your back can't preach or pastor and have lost everything. With a sparkle in his eye, he said .. I can pray!

Then I realized he had the right answer. If Jesus is everything to you and he is your life.. No man and no adverse circumstances can take that from you.

Romans 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? [shall] tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

Romans 8:36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

Romans 8:37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

Romans 8:38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

Romans 8:39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Invitation and conclusion:

Let's think soberly about our life. Let's reason together..

What does it take to make you grateful?

What does your life consist of?

What is your life and what do you live for?

Now what can it take to take this from you? How likely is it to be taken from you?

Do you see now, why Jesus said,

**HE THAT FINDETH HIS LIFE WILL LOSE HIS LIFE..**

There is only one way to live your life that in every circumstance of life you will not lose your thanksgiving. The only way to do that is to live your life for Christ and love him.

In every circumstance of life you can live for Christ and love him..

This can never be taken from you. If you're stranded on a desert island you can live for Christ and love Him..

If you are suffering health problems..

If you are going through difficulties..

If you are being abased if you are experiencing abundance..



Nothing can separate you from this..  
It is achievable..  
You are a winner no matter what..

***Jim Eliot said it this way..***

***No man is a fool to give up that which he cannot keep to obtain that which he cannot lose!***

I remember Chris Repolt every time he would come to church I would say how are you doing Brother Chris.. He would smile and say.. "Better than I deserve.."

Every day is a good day ..  
Every day we receive more than we deserve when we live for Jesus Christ our Lord..

Will you trade in what you think would make you grateful for that?