

**11-18-18**  
**SOME THINGS WE SHOULD BE THANKFUL FOR**

I Thessalonians 5:16 Rejoice evermore.  
I Thessalonians 5:17 Pray without ceasing.  
I Thessalonians 5:18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.  
I Thessalonians 5:19 Quench not the Spirit.  
I Thessalonians 5:20 Despise not prophesyings.  
I Thessalonians 5:21 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.  
I Thessalonians 5:22 Abstain from all appearance of evil.  
I Thessalonians 5:23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
I Thessalonians 5:24 Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.  
I Thessalonians 5:25 Brethren, pray for us.  
I Thessalonians 5:26 Greet all the brethren with an holy kiss.  
I Thessalonians 5:27 I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read unto all the holy brethren.  
I Thessalonians 5:28 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

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

A characteristic of an end time people is that they will not be thankful.

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,

Most people want more, and fail to thank God for what He has given.

I thought it good to spend just a little time as we prepare for Thanksgiving this Thursday to meditate about this matter of giving thanks to God. The Bible says that we should give thanks in everything. Some of the every things Paul clearly mentions in this passage.

The Bible says in everything give thanks. Clearly, the very first thing we should thank God for is that He made us. This is so basic. We owe our very existence to Him as our creator. The greatest injustice that the world does to this truth this thanksgiving is imagining that we are a by product of "Mother Nature" or evolution or chance.

All of these presuppositions of atheistic evolution have taken away the greatest truth we should praise and thank God for, GOD IS OUR CREATOR.

Psalms 100:3 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.

I. FIRST WE SHOULD THANK GOD FOR MAKING US:

Psalms 139:14 I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.

Psalms 139:15 My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.

Psalms 139:16 Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.

Psalms 139:17 How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them!

Think about all that is involved in your physical make up and what makes you move and breath and live. Consider one of the most important physical parts of your body. Your heart. WE ARE INDEED FEARFULLY AND WONDERFULLY MADE:

Fact: The adult heart beats about 40,000,000 times a year. In one hour the heart works hard enough to produce enough energy to raise almost one ton of weight one yard from the ground.

When we start having a problem with that little organ in our body we know it. Think of it, when the heart stops you stop!

How can a person really think that we are a product of chance? Evolution?

Fact: In one square inch of skin there are four yards of nerve fibers, 1300 nerve cells, 100 sweat glands, 3 million cells, and 3 yards of blood vessels.

Fact: Except for your brain cells, 50,000,000 of the cells in your body will have died and been replaced with others, every 15 seconds.

Fact: The liver is often called the body's chemical factory. Scientists have counted over 500 liver functions.

Fact: The central nervous system is connected to every part of the body by 43 pairs of nerves. Twelve pairs go to and from the brain, with 31 pairs going from the spinal cord. There are nearly 45 miles of nerves running through our bodies.

Fact: Messages travel along the nerves as electrical impulses. They travel at speeds up to 248 mile per hour.

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Application: How is it that we can complain to God for anything in this life? it is a miracle that we are alive.

Our bodies are so fearfully and wonderfully made that even when we deserve worse, God, by His grace, has let us live.

Imagine some of the foolish things we have done and we are still alive.

College students jump of a bridges 50 feet high into rivers.

Think of the accidents many of us have endured, drugs, drinking, smoking. The abuse many put their bodies through and yet many survive. Sadly some overestimate the body's endurance and die. I marvel that by the grace of God many of us have survived some crazy things we have done in the past.

If we cannot agree that we are a marvelous creation of God, what hope have we for us to properly thank and praise God this thanksgiving?

Because we have rejected God as our creator, and the creator of all things, we and our nation have fallen into nature worship.

Recently, our president has been criticized for saying that California is mismanaging their forests. The environmentalists are attacking him for this statement.

Let me read a report that was presented WASHINGTON, D.C., April 23, 2015 - by the Subcommittee on Federal Lands. A hearing was held on the devastating impacts of wildfire and the need to significantly increase forest management efforts on the National Forest System.

This report clearly blamed mismanagement of forests and the reason for the intensity of destruction being caused by forest fires. Yet the radical environmentalists which consists of almost all of the media, Hollywood, and California, wants to blame the wild fires on global warming. Here is what the conclusion was from the 2015 hearing:

"Over the past thirty years, we have seen an 80 percent reduction in timber harvested from our national forests - and in the same period a concomitant increase in acreage destroyed by fire," Subcommittee Chairman Tom McClintock (CA-04) stated. "In the name of protecting endangered species, we placed increasing tracts of land off limits to forest management, allowing our forests to become dangerously overcrowded and overgrown."

- From the mid 1950's through the mid 1990's, the average amount of timber harvested from the national forests averaged 10 to 12 billion board feet. During the same period, the average annual amount of acres burned due to catastrophic wildfire, was 3.6 million acres per year.

- Since 1996, the average amount of timber harvested annually was between 1.5 and 3.3 billion board feet. Also since 1996, the average annual amount of acres burned due to catastrophic wildfire was over six million acres per year.

So the fact is that with 50% decrease in harvesting and clearing out forests there has been 50% increase in forest fires in California. You'd be hard pressed to find that news, because the media is too busy criticizing our president for just reporting what was reported to the congress in 2015 when Obama was president. Which report everyone ignored.

Your presupposition effects everything. If we start with the presupposition that we are a by-product of evolution and chance, than we may think by leaving things to the wild we are respecting our creator. If we believe that we are a creation of God and we have given dominion over God's creation. We will want to prune, manage, and cultivate what is wild and make it profitable for man! If protecting lives means cutting down trees, we will do it!

There are a lot of people that are having a terrible thanksgiving this year because of a government that worships the creation more than the creator.

I praise God, that God is my creator, and I thank Him, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

## ***II. I THANK GOD FOR THE GOOD THINGS OF LIFE HE LETS US ENJOY.***

I Timothy 6:17 Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;

Deuteronomy 6:10 And it shall be, when the LORD thy God shall have brought thee into the land which he sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give thee great and goodly cities, which thou buildedst not,

Deuteronomy 6:11 And houses full of all good things, which thou filledst not, and wells digged, which thou diggedst not, vineyards and olive trees, which thou plantedst not; when thou shalt have eaten and be full;

Deuteronomy 6:12 Then beware lest thou forget the LORD, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.

Think about all the things we enjoy and take for granted.

Think about the pilgrims landing at Plymouth Rock.

They struggled for food.

They struggled for heat.

They struggled for clothing.

They struggled with the elements.

We have wells. How many of you hand dug your own well?

How many of you grow all your own food?

We have houses full of things that we have not worked for?

We have cars we have not built.

We have appliances we have not invented.

We have computers we have not designed.

Imagine those early colonists, they had to make their own clothes, grow their own food, build their own houses.

My family visited historic Plymouth Rock one year for a vacation and we went to the replica of the local plantation store. I saw a little tin can. I asked what was sold in the little can. The re-enactor said, EAR WAX. Imagine living in a time when the colonists valued human ear wax!

From this group of settlers we get the tradition of THANKSGIVING!

James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

Can we thank God for all the good things He has given us this thanksgiving.

## ***III. CAN WE THANK GOD FOR THE NOT SO PLEASANT THINGS:***

James 1:2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

James 1:3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

James 1:4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

James 1:5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

Can we thank God for the difficulties of the day?

Can we thank God for times of sickness and problems?

## **1. DO WE BELIEVE HIS PROMISE:**

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

If a problem or difficulty comes into our lives we should account it.

Count it all joy, knowing all things work together for good.

If we love God, God is in control of our lives.

Should start out each day praying for God to direct and lead.

Remember, it was Baalim's Ass that saved his life but he was ready to do the donkey in. Who knows but that unpleasant thing that upsets our plans may just be a blessing in disguise. Who knows how many serious catastrophes may have been averted in our lives by that donkey that falls on us like it did to Baalim.

Baalim said to his donkey, "if I had a sword I'd kill you.."

Maybe that flat tire could be God's way of saving your life.

Amazing how many people had a story of being saved from death at the world trade center. Some could not make it into work that day!

How many times do we set out with our little list of things to do in the day, only to have everything changed by an accident, a sickness, a problem, but who knows but God may be delivering us from some evil that could befall us by bringing into our lives a slight inconvenience.

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

## **IV. Can we thank God for His people:**

Philippians 1:3 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,

How often it is we look at each other and see faults.

The Bible teaches we should build each other up.

We need to be thankful for each other.

#### **IV. WE SHOULD THANK GOD FOR THE GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE THAT WE DON'T DESERVE.**

II Corinthians 9:15 Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.

What is the greatest thing we can have in this life.

If Bill Gates called and told you that he was going to send you a check for 55,000,000 dollars wouldn't you be excited. Yet that amount of money could never buy your salvation!

Think, what price can you give for eternal life?

Matthew 16:26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

Why are we not thankful for this gift???

##### **1. We forgot just how great our sin is.**

To whom much is forgiven the same loveth much.

Luke 7:36 And one of the Pharisees desired him that he would eat with him. And he went into the Pharisee's house, and sat down to meat.

Luke 7:37 And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment,

Luke 7:38 And stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment.

Luke 7:39 Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner.

Luke 7:40 And Jesus answering said unto him, Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And he saith, Master, say on.

Luke 7:41 There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty.

Luke 7:42 And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most?

Luke 7:43 Simon answered and said, I suppose that he, to whom he forgave most. And he said unto him, Thou hast rightly judged.

Luke 7:44 And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head.

Luke 7:45 Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet.

Luke 7:46 My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment.

Luke 7:47 Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little.

Luke 7:48 And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven.

##### **2. Have we forgotten the great price it took to take away our sins:**

Isaiah 53:3 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Isaiah 53:4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

Isaiah 53:5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

Isaiah 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 53:7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

Isaiah 53:8 He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.

Isaiah 53:9 And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.

- A. THEY MOCKED HIM.
- B. THEY SCOURGED HIM.
- C. THEY SPIT IN HIS FACE.
- D. THEY MADE HIM CARRY THAT SPLINTERED CROSS.
- E. THEY PARTED HIS GARMENT ASUNDER.
- F. THEY NAILED HIM TO THE CROSS.

The Lord instituted the Lord's table so that we would not forget what it took for him to save us.

Each time we celebrate communion we commemorate His death and sacrifice on the cross for our sins.

This next Wednesday, the eve of Thanksgiving, as is our custom, we are going to celebrate the Lord's table. What greater thing can we be thankful for this thanksgiving?

## **SUNDAY EVENING 11-18-18**

This morning I preached on this text:

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

It certainly is easier to give thanks when the circumstances are favorable and pleasant. However, can we give thanks in times of adversity and trials? This is the true test of our faith and resolve to love God.

There are many examples in the Bible of men of God who gave thanks in the most adverse situations. Tonight we are going to look at a few of these men:

First:

### ***I. CONSIDER JOB'S EXAMPLE OF ENDURANCE AND FAITH.***

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.

Job was a great example of endurance and faith, and notice how after he received all the evil reports of his losses, he fell down and worshipped the Lord.

Can we do the same?

James 5:10 Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience.

James 5:11 Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.

There is one thing for sure, in this life we shall go through tribulation. This life is full of trials and problems. Will we endure them? Will we stay close to the Lord through them all?

### ***II. WHEN I THINK OF A PERSON OF ENDURANCE I THINK OF PAUL THE APOSTLE.***

II Corinthians 12:7 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.

II Corinthians 12:8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.

II Corinthians 12:9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

II Corinthians 12:10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

Is there any NT saint like Paul the Apostle, who endured such trials, persecution, difficulties?

When I first came to the Church I had a deacon in the church who asked me to go visit a fellow who stopped coming to church. When I went to see him I found out his wife died of cancer and he was still grieving over her death. When I invited him back to church he said that he couldn't understand how it was God let his wife die. He said, if anyone had faith to be healed it was her. So he basically said because God did not heal his wife he lost faith in God.

Are not trials and heartaches inevitable in this life? It is when the trials come that our faith should shine the brightest. THIS IS WHAT IT IS ALL ABOUT!

Our hope is not in this world. Even Paul the apostle who healed so many people had to suffer so much in this life.

I Peter 2:21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

If Jesus the Son of God was not exempt from suffering, He who knew no sin, how is it that we are amazed when suffering comes our way!

### **III. THE GREATEST EXAMPLE OF ALL OF ENDURING SUFFERING WAS JESUS CHRIST.**

I Peter 2:20 For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.

I Peter 2:21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

I Peter 2:22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:

I Peter 2:23 Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:

I Peter 2:24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

Is there any greater example of suffering wrongfully than Jesus Christ.

Note: Jesus did not deserve what he suffered. Yet He endured the suffering for us.

Hebrews 5:7 Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;

Hebrews 5:8 Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;

Hebrews 5:9 And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;

He learned obedience through the things he suffered!

If God did not spare His own son from suffering, what makes you or I think we will not go through fiery trials in this life?