

11-20-16

THE GREATEST SIN THAT WILL ROB YOU OF YOUR THANKSGIVING!

This is the week of thanksgiving. We are facing a problem in our society today. We are a nation of ingrates, as predicted in the Bible - the people in the end times will be UNTHANKFUL AND UNHOLY.

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,

We do not know how to be thankful to God.

Yet this week we are supposed to set aside a day of thanksgiving! CAN WE INDEED BE GRATEFUL TO GOD?

THIS MORNING I WANT TO TALK ABOUT THE ONE THE GREATEST VICES THAT WILL ROB US OF THE ABILITY TO PROPERLY GIVE THANKS TO GOD!!!

**ONE VICE THAT
WILL SPOIL OUR THANKSGIVING: PRIDE**

PRIDE: In all it's subtle forms will rob a person of their ability to be truly thankful to God.

Here is our text:

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.

Pride Is The Enemy Of Thanksgiving.

- I. Pride will rob us of our ability to be thankful to God because those who are proud give themselves credit for what God alone should be given credit.***

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.

What can we take credit for?

Do we really have control of any area of our life?

Every New Year I try and write my goals. It is amazing how, in the course of a year, how many things change. It amazes me as I read my little list down through the years how many things have changed because of factors that are out of my control.

THE REASON THIS HAPPENS IS BECAUSE GOD ALONE IS IN CONTROL OF ALL CIRCUMSTANCE OF OUR LIVES.

James 4:15 For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.

If God alone is in control of all things, then God alone gets the credit for all things that He allows us to accomplish in our lives.

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

So often in the course of this world those who do not know the Lord imagine that they deserve the credit for so many things they have accomplished in this life. This is nothing but pride. **AND GOD RESISTS THIS PRIDE!**

James 4:6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

**IN THIS LIFE LOST PEOPLE HAVE GOD RESISTING AND OPPOSING THEM..
GOD RESISTETH THE PROUD.** Many times in the Bible:

THE BIBLE TALKS ABOUT RESISTING THE HOLY GHOST.

God told Paul that he was resisting Him. He said, It is hard to kick against the pricks.

**IN THIS LIFE, WE AS CHRISTIANS HAVE THE DEVIL RESISTING US.
BUT GOD IS THE ONE WHO SETS HIMSELF AGAINST SATAN AND HIS CROWD!**

James 4:6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

I Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

I Peter 5:9 Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

I Peter 5:10 But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

Satan is the author of pride.. and so it is that when we become proud he accuses us before the throne of God and get liberty to afflict us..

WHENEVER GOD'S PEOPLE MANIFESTED PRIDE IN THE BIBLE THEY WERE CHASTENED.

THE UNSAVED OF THIS WORLD HABITUALLY MANIFEST PRIDE.

It is amazing how people even in lowly conditions could be proud.

Bum on the street can manifest pride.

Ghetto people have a ghetto form of pride.

There is a Hillbilly pride.

One of the reasons that biblical preaching is so unpopular today is because it strikes at the heart of the proud and dethrones the proud. The goal of preaching is to bring us to repentance. And this book will humble us!

The goal of biblical preaching is to expose sin and pride.

We see today the churches that cater to man's pride and ambitions are flourishing outwardly, but failing inwardly to produce spiritual fruit!

SO THERE IS NO REVIVAL IN OUR NATION TODAY. WHILE RELIGION IS FLOURISHING, THRIVING, ETC.

WHAT OUR NATION NEEDS TO TODAY IS A GIDEON WHO WILL TEAR DOWN THE ALTARS OF BAAL. Remember that when Gideon won the battle against the Philistines, the pride factor had so permeated his nation that the Lord could not use the 32,000 men that volunteered to fight. He had to narrow it down to 300.

Even then, after Gideon won the battle with the 300, we read:

Judges 8:1 And the men of Ephraim said unto him, Why hast thou served us thus, that thou calledst us not, when thou wentest to fight with the Midianites? And they did chide with him sharply.

Judges 8:2 And he said unto them, What have I done now in comparison of you? Is not the gleaning of the grapes of Ephraim better than the vintage of Abi-ezer?

Judges 8:3 God hath delivered into your hands the princes of Midian, Oreb and Zeeb: and what was I able to do in comparison of you? Then their anger was abated toward him, when he had said that.

II. PRIDE ROBS 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.

6 times in these two verses the devil says, I me my I, etc.

PRIDE MAKES US SELF CENTERED RATHER THAN GOD CENTERED.

In this life we call the proud happy.

When a person is proud the whole world revolves around them.
This being the case, such people are rarely grateful for anything.

Everything they get what they think they deserve.

Why thank someone for doing or giving them something if they had it coming to them anyway?

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 there 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.

This is because those children have come to think it the norm to get all the attention.

In my Family of 6 we had 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 UPON YOU.

III. PRIDE WILL ROB US OF OUR ABILITY TO BE THANKFUL BECAUSE PRIDE

WILL CAUSE US TO BECOME DISCONTENT AND 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.

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 DISCONTENTMENT COMES FROM PRIDE.

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.

We think more highly of ourselves than we ought to.

SATAN CAN SNIFF PRIDE A MILE AWAY BECAUSE HE INVENTED IT!

Pride is called the condemnation of the Devil and pride will disqualify a person from being a leader in God's church!

1 Timothy 3:6 Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.

How foolish we are when we enter into his arena of pride.

Bible warns about doing His work in pride.

More and more, in this country, our young people are going after careers that have nothing to do with providing a service for others. THEY JUST WANT TO EXALT THEIR THRONE! TAKE A LOOK AT THE MOST SUCCESSFUL TV SHOWS. American Idol. Dancing With The Stars, etc.

They go after a career that just tantalizes their ego.

All careers are generally self exalting.

They take up careers that they cannot possible get a job in.

The Bible says we ought to think soberly and accept the way God made us.

Today we have men wanting to be women and women wanting to be men.

We have people who are bitter at God for making them the way they are.

We have people who will not think soberly about themselves.

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.

I had a fellow who was handicapped who came to church and constantly wanted to know how he could go to Bible college. He wanted to be in the ministry.

You know the Bible says, to desire to be a Bishop is a good thing but a Bishop must be, and then it gives the qualifications!

I Timothy 3:1 This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.

I Timothy 3:2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;

I see people who want to be Bishops who would not make good faithful doorkeepers in the church. If a person couldn't be faithful in little things how could they be entrusted with greater things.

The Bible gives an example of one of the kings who because of pride did not look soberly at his position. He was King of Israel, yet that was not enough. In his pride who wanted the job of being a priest also!

Inordinate ambitions:

II Chronicles 26:14 And Uzziah prepared for them throughout all the host shields, and spears, and helmets, and habergeons, and bows, and slings to cast stones.

II Chronicles 26:15 And he made in Jerusalem engines, invented by cunning men, to be on the towers and upon the bulwarks, to shoot arrows and great stones withal. And his name spread far abroad; for he was marvellously helped, till he was strong.

II Chronicles 26:16 But when he was strong, his heart was lifted up to his destruction: for he transgressed against the LORD his God, and went into the temple of the LORD to burn incense upon the altar of incense.

II Chronicles 26:17 And Azariah the priest went in after him, and with him fourscore priests of the LORD, that were valiant men:

II Chronicles 26:18 And they withstood Uzziah the king, and said unto him, It appertaineth not unto thee, Uzziah, to burn incense unto the LORD, but to the priests the sons of Aaron, that are consecrated to burn incense: go out of the sanctuary; for thou hast trespassed; neither shall it be for thine honour from the LORD God.

II Chronicles 26:19 Then Uzziah was wroth, and had a censer in his hand to burn incense: and while he was wroth with the priests, the leprosy even rose up in his forehead before the priests in the house of the LORD, from beside the incense altar.

II Chronicles 26:20 And Azariah the chief priest, and all the priests, looked upon him, and, behold, he was leprous in his forehead, and they thrust him out from thence; yea, himself hasted also to go out, because the LORD had smitten him.

II Chronicles 26:21 And Uzziah the king was a leper unto the day of his death, and dwelt in a several house, being a leper; for he was cut off from the house of the LORD: and Jotham his son was over the king's house, judging the people of the land.

PRIDE: IS THAT GREAT LEPROSY THAT WILL DESTROY A NATION AS WELL AS AN INDIVIDUAL.

CONCLUSION:

Pride is what is robbing us of our ability to properly thank God.

Humble yourself before God and He will exalt you!!!

PRIDE WILL DESTROY YOU AND YOUR THANKSGIVING.

The proud cannot be thankful, their pride will hinder them!