

**11-21-21**  
**SUNDAY SCHOOL & MORNING MESSAGES**  
**LESSONS FOR THANKSGIVING:**  
**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

This Thursday is Thanksgiving..

Most of us will be gathering together with our families, to celebrate a meal together and enjoy the company of family and friends and relatives;

It is a time of giving thanks to our God for all that he has done for us.

Giving thanks is a godly attribute. Yet as more and more ungodliness prevails in our country and society, it is getting harder and harder for people to truly have a heart of gratefulness to their creator. In fact we see greater manifestations of ungratefulness than gratefulness. Let us consider this morning the subject of thanksgiving and gratefulness..

***I. HOW PEOPLE MANIFEST THEIR UNGRATEFULNESS TO GOD***

***1. THROUGH THEIR VAIN IMAGINATIONS OF THIS WORLD:***

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. THIS STEMS FROM HUMANISTIC PRIDE..

The world fails to give God the credit and Glory due his name..

WHAT CREDIT DO THEY FAIL TO GIVE HIM:

Consider the following

CREDIT GOD ALONE DESERVES	Vs.	VAIN IMAGINATIONS
HE MADE US		WE HAVE EVOLVED
HE MADE ALL THINGS		MATTER IS ETERNAL AND SELF PERPETUATING
HE IS ALL POWERFUL		NATURE IS ALL POWERFUL
HE IS IN CONTROL OF EVERYTHING		ALL THINGS HAPPEN BY CHANCE
HE GAVE US GOOD THINGS TO ENJOY		WE MAKE THE GOOD THROUGH OUR SELF EFFORTS
BOTTOM LINE		BOTTOM LINE
THANKFUL		UNTHANKFUL..

Vain imaginations,

I Corinthians 1:21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

The world by wisdom does not know or acknowledge God. How sad that is..

It makes me sick whenever our leaders slight our faith in God to make us think that they have a loftier faith in science than in God. Who made everything that we see?

Biden tried to wax eloquent when he stumbled over his words and said,

We choose Science over fiction..

We choose Truth over facts..

You see he calls Noah's flood fiction..

He calls a Genesis 1 creation fiction..

He calls the promise of God that he will sustain this earth till he comes fiction..

He in essence calls the Bible fiction..

He didn't say this.. but this is what he is implying..

Lest we forget ..

Colossians 1:16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether [they be] thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

Colossians 1:17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

I guess to them this is fiction! And those who hold these things to to be fiction cannot thank God for his miraculous creation and upholding of all things..

How do people manifest ungratefulness to God?

## **2. THROUGH MAGNIFYING THE WISDOM OF THIS WORLD: AND REJECTING THE WISDOM OF GOD..**

On the contrary, the world through their knowledge and wisdom seeks to exalt themselves..

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..

So anti God is this world.. there seems to be a greater tolerance in the world for radical ideas of Islam in our nation than the Bible...

People who think they are wise.. are in fact the fools..

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 RISING GAS PRICES...
THEIR VIEW OF MARRIAGE	TRANSGENDERS GAY MARRIAGES AIDES, ETC

### **3. WE MANIFEST UNGRATEFULNESS BY TAKING FOR GRANTED WHAT YOU RECEIVE OR COMPLAINING OVER HAVING TOO LITTLE....**

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].

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

TOO MUCH WE THINK WE DESERVE..

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 a real estate glut.. in our country today..

TOO MANY PEOPLE HAVE BUILT NEW HOUSES.... AND THEY ARE STILL BUILDING..

People forget.. the Lord..

## ***B. 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.. 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;

## ***II. HOW WE SHOULD MANIFEST OUR GRATEFULNESS TO GOD***

PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION OF OUR GRATEFULNESS

### ***1. We Should Manifest It In Public Worship***

Psalms 147:7 Sing unto the LORD with thanksgiving; sing praise upon the harp unto our God:

Music was meant to be an expression of Thanksgiving.. We express our thanksgiving to God.. in Praise worship Him with music..

James 5:13 Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms.

NOTE: If it is for God.. why do we offer him what pleases us rather than seek to offer him what pleases God? God told the Israelites what pleased him in worship...

The incense was to not be like anything that the world offered..

The altar was to not be of this world..

The fire originated from God..

God told the priests how to dress..

God told them all the minute details of how to come to him..

This was the essence of Cain's sin.. he brought a sacrifice that he wanted to give. So too.. why is it we offer to God today what pleases us and don't seek to offer to him what he tells us and what pleases him.

### ***2. We manifest our Gratefulness to God.. in Giving.. Offering.. Old testament Sacrifices were an example..***

We studied the sacrifices in the Old Testament and found that our Lord was very specific about them, for a purpose.

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.

Leviticus 7:14 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.

***Leviticus 7:15 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.***

Leviticus 7:16 But if the sacrifice of his offering [be] a vow, or a voluntary offering, it shall be eaten the same day that he offereth his sacrifice: and on the morrow also the remainder of it shall be eaten:

Philippians 4:15 Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only.

Philippians 4:16 For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity.

Philippians 4:17 Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.

Philippians 4:18 But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things [which were sent] from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God.

Philippians 4:19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

***3. WE MANIFEST OUR THANKSGIVING TO GOD BY GIVING VERBAL TESTIMONY TO OTHERS OF HIS GOODNESS TO US..***

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.

How do you offer him a sacrifice of Praise..

We often think we need to praise the Lord when we feel like it..

No we need to praise the Lord because he deserves it..

***A. WE DO IT WHEN WE DO NOT FEEL LIKE DOING IT! THEN IT IS A SACRIFICE..***

Psalms 42:5 Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and [why] art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him [for] the help of his countenance.

Psalms 42:11 Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him, [who is] the health of my countenance, and my God.

Psalms 43:5 Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope in God: for I shall yet praise him, [who is] the health of my countenance, and my God.

***B. We offer a sacrifice of praise by not allowing any praise or benefit to come to us..***

Isaiah 42:8 I [am] the LORD: that [is] my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.

So often we want to share the credit with God.. for what he has done..  
WE NEED TO BE CAREFUL OF THAT... VOID

A sacrifice is totally burnt up and we do not get any benefit from it

### ***WHAT ARE THE GREATEST SPOILERS OF THANKSGIVING?***

As we come to the holiday we call Thanksgiving, we should note that there are some sins that will destroy our ability to give thanks. Today we are going to look at the three greatest spoilers of thankful spirit and heart: These three sins are: PRIDE, BITTERNESS, AND COVETOUSNESS ...

***I. PRIDE Is The Greatest Spoiler That Causes Us To Lose The Spirit Of Thanksgiving and Giving Thanks..***

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.

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

God is the One who has blessed us with every good thing that we have. We tend to forget that we are so very frail-and only God can keep us breathing all blessings flow from the Lord. When we forget this we become proud and loose a sweet humble and thankful spirit.

***A. Pride Robs Us of Our Ability to Thank God.***

Our Pride Causes Us to Be Self-Centered Rather Than God-Centered ...

The author of sin and pride is the devil.

The devil got proud, and we can read what he said:

I, I, I, I, ME, MY .

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.

### ***B. Pride Causes Us To Have An Inflated Opinion of Ourselves .***

Philippians 2:3 [Let] nothing [be done] through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

Philippians 2:4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

Philippians 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

Philippians 2:6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

Philippians 2:7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

Philippians 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Our pride is what causes us to have an improper attitude of Thanksgiving toward God.

To be thankful we need to acknowledge that something was given to us or that we received unmerited favor. To be thankful we have to acknowledge that God has given to us something that we did not necessarily earn or deserve.

If we think we deserve what we have, then we will never give thanks for it. We think that since we earned it, we deserve it. Pride makes us think we deserve more of what we do have, and pride will cause us to think others should thank us and there is no need to thank God. We've elevated our opinion of ourselves. We have the mentality that we can be gods-even to the extent of our ability to control the environment!

### ***C. Pride Causes Us To Think God Should Serve Us-Rather Than We Serve God.***

Philippians 2:7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

Philippians 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Luke 17:7 But which of you, having a servant plowing or feeding cattle, will say unto him by and by, when he is come from the field, Go and sit down to meat?

Luke 17:8 And will not rather say unto him, Make ready wherewith I may sup, and gird thyself, and serve me, till I have eaten and drunken; and afterward thou shalt eat and drink?

Luke 17:9 Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I trow not.

Luke 17:10 So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.

The lesser thanks the greater ... and when we give thanks to God, we acknowledge that we are the servant and He is Lord.

Every time we give thanks we humble ourselves.

We do not have a financial problem in America-we have a pride problem. People have an inflated opinion of their own worth and value. The reason people are not able to control their finances is because they think they deserve greater than what they have, and therefore rack up payments.

We think we deserve more and more and more .

This is all a manifestation of pride.

THE REASON WE ARE NOT PRODUCING PRODUCTS AS WE SHOULD IN THIS COUNTRY IS BECAUSE WE FEEL THAT SO MUCH WORK IS BENEATH US.

### ***D. Pride Causes You To Lose A Sweet Servant's Heart...***

(Again, we forget we are here to serve God-not God serve us.)

Our pride will get in the way of our being thankful to God.

Pride causes us to look to God to serve us rather than our serving Him.

This is what the parable of the servant is all about: The servant's duty and job is to serve his master. Do we thank the servant when he does what he is supposed to do?

THIS IS THE ESSENCE OF IDOLATRY because an idol is really a god who serves us rather than the true God whom we serve.

## ***II. The Second Enemy of Thanksgiving is BITTERNESS ..***

A bitter person is a miserable person.

A miserable person is an unthankful person.

No one wants to be around an unthankful person-which also causes them to be miserable-which then causes them to be even more bitter!

### ***A. Bitterness all starts with unforgiveness.***

Matthew 5:23 Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee;

Matthew 5:24 Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.

Matthew 5:25 Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison.

Note: As we bring a gift of thanksgiving to God, it will not be accepted if we are harboring bitterness in our hearts towards a brother.

### ***B. Bitterness can also come from hurt that we experience from others.***

Sometimes this hurt is perceived because of pride. How many times people have gotten bitter because they were rebuked? The problem again is PRIDE.

Bitterness was the cause of Cain killing Abel. Upon hearing both Jesus and the Apostle Paul preach for the first time-the people wanted to kill them!

### ***C. Bitterness Can Also Come When People Are Super Sensitive and Easily Offended.***

Psalms 119:165 Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.

Look at the characteristics of love. Bitterness is the opposite of love..

A person who is consumed with a spirit of hatred will lose his or her sweet Christian spirit. If we harbor bitterness on the inside, it will affect not only our countenance, but also affect us in other physical ways.

Love suffers long . is kind . envies not . vaunteth not itself ... is not puffed up or unseemly . seeketh not her own . is not easily provoked ... thinketh no evil . rejoiceth not in Iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth . beareth .believeth .hopeth all things .endureth all things too ...

Being offended often starts with pride-and then develops into bitterness..

***D. The Ultimate Degradation of Bitterness is When a Person Gets Bitter at God.***

Realize that being bitter at people who are made in the image of God is the door opener to being bitter at God if you allow it to brew.

Remember: anything that a person has done against you-you have done worse against God. And if you cannot forgive your fellow man, what makes you think God will forgive you?

***III. The Third Hindrance To Being Able to Express Thanksgiving is COVETOUSNESS.***

Covetousness will rob you of a spirit of Thanksgiving.

The 10th commandment is: THOU SHALT NOT COVET .

Covetousness also proceeds from the root sin of pride.

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. He 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.

Covetousness is really wanting something that God does not want for you.

Covetousness (like bitterness) proceeds from the sin of pride, which is really the door opener to all forms of sin. Pride and covetousness go hand in hand. It is a sin that takes from you your ability to praise God.

Did not Satan appeal to man's pride when he said, "Ye shall be as gods."

Exodus 20:17 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that [is] thy neighbour's.

***B. If we are discontent with what we have, we feel we have to get more; if we are content with what we have we will not covet what others have. And will give thanks for what we have.***

How can we give thanks for what we have until we are content for what God has given us.

Philippians 4:11 Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, [therewith] to be content.

Philippians 4:12 I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

***C. They that be rich will lose a spirit of humility and are overtaken with lusts and covetousness.***

I Timothy 6:6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.

I Timothy 6:7 For we brought nothing into [this] world, [and it is] certain we can carry nothing out.

I Timothy 6:8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

I Timothy 6:9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and [into] many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

I Timothy 6:10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

I Timothy 6:11 But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

I Timothy 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

#### ***D. The Downfall of All of Those Who Live to be Rich:***

Luke 12:16 And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully:

Luke 12:17 And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?

Luke 12:18 And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods.

Luke 12:19 And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, [and] be merry.

Luke 12:20 But God said unto him, [Thou] fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?

Luke 12:21 So [is] he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

Luke 12:22 And he said unto his disciples, Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on.

Luke 12:23 The life is more than meat, and the body [is more] than raiment.

Luke 12:24 Consider the ravens: for they neither sow nor reap; which neither have storehouse nor barn; and God feedeth them: how much more are ye better than the fowls?

Luke 12:25 And which of you with taking thought can add to his stature one cubit?

Luke 12:26 If ye then be not able to do that thing which is least, why take ye thought for the rest?

Luke 12:27 Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

Luke 12:28 If then God so clothe the grass, which is to day in the field, and to morrow is cast into the oven; how much more [will he clothe] you, O ye of little faith?

Luke 12:29 And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind.

Luke 12:30 For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things.

Luke 12:31 But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Luke 12:32 Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

Luke 12:33 Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth.

Luke 12:34 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Luke 12:35 Let your loins be girded about, and [your] lights burning;

Luke 12:36 And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately.

Luke 12:37 Blessed [are] those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them.

Luke 12:38 And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find [them] so, blessed are those servants.

Luke 12:39 And this know, that if the goodman of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through.

**Conclusion:** Don't let these three sins rob you of a joyous and blessed Thanksgiving Day and, in fact, the ability to give thanks every day. The Bible says that in Everything We Should Give Thanks--not just the last Thursday of November.

Pride opens the door to bitterness .

Pride opens the door to covetousness .

Pride opens the door to all sin.

If we instill in our hearts a sense that we deserve more-if we inflate our opinion of ourselves and puff ourselves up, we are capable of anything. The greatest characteristic of unholiness is being unthankful. It is a good thing to give thanks! But these three sins will rob us of our ability to have a thankful heart and spirit.