

Thanksgiving

- A. Definitions.
1. **thanksgiving**: The giving of thanks; the expression of thankfulness or gratitude; *esp.* the act of giving thanks to God.
 2. **thank**: *v. trans.* To give thanks to; to express gratitude or obligation to.
 3. **thank**: *sb.* Favourable thought or feeling, good will. 3. Kindly thought or feeling entertained towards any one for favour or services received; grateful thought, gratitude. 4. The expression of gratitude; the grateful acknowledgement of a benefit or favour.
 4. **gratitude**: The quality or condition of being grateful; a warm sense of appreciation of kindness received, involving a feeling of goodwill towards the benefactor and a desire to do something in return; gratefulness.
 5. **appreciate**: *v.* 1. To make or form an estimate of worth, quality, or amount. 2. To estimate aright, to perceive the full force of. 3. To esteem adequately or highly; to recognize as valuable or excellent; to find worth or excellence in.
 6. **bles**: II. To hold or call holy; to extol as holy, divine, gracious. III. To declare to be supernaturally favoured; to pronounce or make happy. 7. To confer well-being upon; 'to make happy: to prosper, to make successful.' To make happy with some gift.
- B. Thanksgiving is a good thing to do. **PSA 92:1-2.**
- C. Thanksgiving is commanded for all times and in all circumstances. **EPH 5:20; 1TH 5:18.**
1. It is the will of God and thus a matter of obedience. The will of God is the believer's law.
 2. This is a commandment for those who are *in Christ*. Those outside of Christ cannot keep this commandment.
 3. Only *in Christ Jesus* can this obedience be acceptably rendered. **EPH 1:6; 1PE 2:5.**
 4. All in Christ Jesus ought to be thankful for their salvation in Him regardless of life's circumstances. **1CO 15:57; 2CO 9:11.**
- D. Thanksgiving is an essential part of *doing all in the name of* (by the authority of) Jesus Christ. **COL 3:17.**
- E. Thanksgiving is a *sacrifice of praise* we offer to God. **HEB 13:15; PSA 107:21-22.**
1. Thanksgiving is to be done *with our lips*.
 2. Under the Old Testament this sacrifice was more pleasing to God than the animal sacrifices. **PSA 69:30-31.**
 3. Genuine lip-sacrifice differs from hypocritical lip-service. **LUK 18:11 c/w MAT 15:7-8.**
- F. God's creatures are to be received with thanksgiving. **1TI 4:3-5.**
- G. Thanksgiving is a necessary ingredient in prayer. **PHIL 4:6-7; COL 4:2; 1TI 2:1.**
1. Praise is the antidote to heaviness brought on by *carefulness* (state of trouble, anxiety or concern). **ISA 61:3.**
 2. Learn to be thankful for your trials, which bring on carefulness. **PSA 119:71.**
 3. Thanksgiving prepares your heart to accept whatever God's solution is for your problem.
- H. Thanksgiving connects with the peace of God ruling in our hearts and harmony within the body of Christ. **COL 3:15.**

- I. Thanksgiving should displace corrupt speech. **EPH 5:4.**
- J. Thanksgiving demonstrates spiritual strength. **COL 1:11-12.**
- K. Thanksgiving is an ingredient in abounding faith. **COL 2:6-7.**
- L. Thanksgiving is an evidence that one is filled with the Spirit of God. **EPH 5:18-21.**
- M. Consider the examples of our Lord and of Paul. **JOH 6:11, 23; LUK 10:21; 22:19-20; ACT 27:34-35; ROM 1:8; 1CO 1:4; 15:57; 2CO 2:14; EPH 1:15-16; PHIL 1:3-5; COL 1:3-5; 1TH 1:2-3; 2TH 1:3; 2:13; 1TI 1:12; 2TI 1:3-5; PHM 1:4-5.**
 - 1. Paul is our example. **1CO 11:1-2.**
 - 2. Following Paul's example we shall have the God of peace with us. **PHIL 4:9.**
- N. Thanksgiving is the activity of heaven (**REV 7:9-12**). Why not let heaven begin now?
- O. The neglect of thanksgiving breeds moral corruption. **ROM 1:20-25; 2TI 3:1-2.**
- P. Don't limit thanksgiving to an annual celebration.