

A Time to Be Thankful

On the fourth Thursday of November, we celebrate a holiday. This holiday is Thanksgiving. I am reminded at this time of the year of the food. Every Thanksgiving I overeat. When we gather with family and friends, I see the green beans, corn, pumpkin pie (if there is sugar in it), pumpkin rolls, turkey, cheesy potatoes, traditional taco salad, gooseberry pie, and persimmon pudding.

One of the things many families like to do is share with others reasons to be thankful. We sit at the table and each share reasons why they are thankful for this point. It may be:

1. New Job
2. Family/ Friends
3. Graduating
4. Or even another moment to be alive.

However, one thing that I tend to notice is that many will have this thought on this day and that is it. Once the day is over then the thought of being thankful ends when the day ends. It is a problem that has not only affected our culture, but it has also led to a lack of belief in God. This is a large problem within the world.

It is sad to see that people are not always showing thankfulness and appreciation. One thing that should first of all establish our thankfulness is the fact that God created us (**Genesis 2:7**). We have also been blessed with another opportunity to seek Him and find His kingdom (**Matthew 6:33**).

As a Christian we are to be thankful (**Colossians 3:15; 17**). We as worshippers in general should show this thankfulness (**Psalms 100:4**). We should show it when we open our hearts, eyes, and ears to God (**Phil. 4:6**).

How many times do we come across those that do not show this appreciation and thankfulness? We see and hear about it constantly, those that commit shootings, murder, robbery, or even kidnappers just to name a few. Do people who practice these things really have thankfulness? The answer of course is no!

Paul encountered this while rebuking pagans for not being thankful (**Romans 1:21**). Are we subject to the same thing if we are not thankful? Even though many will practice ways that are not being thankful we still need to continue to be thankful (**I Thessalonians 5:17-18**). If one jumps off the bridge, will we follow in the same actions? We need to be a light in the world through God (**Matthew 5:14-16**).

There are also many reasons why we should be thankful.

1. Freedoms we enjoy (**I Timothy 2:1-2**)
 - a. Ability to assemble freely.
2. The Church (**Philippians 2:1-4**)
 - a. Thankful for our brethren
3. Peace with God (**Romans 5:1**)
4. Being in the Lord's body (**Colossians 1:18**)
5. Made fit for the kingdom of heaven (**Colossians 1:13**)
 - a. Delivering us out of sin
 - b. To a promise of Heaven
 - c. Through the giving of His Son (**John 3:16**)

We also need to look for opportunities. These times may come in times of sorrow, happiness, natural calamities, near death experience. Look for all opportunities and give time to give the thanks back to God always (**Colossians 3:16-17**). List all the things and reasons why we can be thankful and always remember them because they are blessings that God has given us.

However, there is something that we need to avoid at all costs. We need to avoid the "rain cloud that is hovering over me" attitude. We need to avoid looking at ourselves always being a victim. It is a serious problem. We get a mindset that we are not responsible for our actions. It puts a large damper on the need to be thankful.

There is a remedy to fixing this problem. This remedy comes from being humble and appreciating and understanding exactly how we are each blessed (**Romans 12:3**). We need to appreciate all opportunities in how God has blessed us.

Are we thankful? Do we have appreciation for everything we have and being blessed by God? The best way for one to be thankful to God is receiving the blessings he offers. It comes through being obedient to His will (**Matthew 7:21**). His gift and blessing are His Son and His Word. Are you ready to start receiving these blessings today? Daniel Sanders