

CORINTH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

GIVE THANKS! – BIBLE STUDY

SCRIPTURE READING:

“Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's. The Lord executeth righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed. He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel. The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. The Lord hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all” (Ps 103:5-8, 19).

INTRODUCTION:

- A. As you observe Thanksgiving, do not concentrate on what you do not have, be thankful for what you have – Give Thanks!
- B. As Believers, we should set aside some time each and every day to thank the Lord for His many Blessings. For Christians, every day is Thanksgiving.
- C. “Why should we give God Thanks? Because everything we have comes from God.” – Billy Graham.
- D. “Near the end of her life, Francis Ridley Havergal jotted down every day on a little calendar something – often a little thing – for which she thanked God. It was her way of thinking about Thanking” – (Preacher’s Sourcebook of Creative Sermon Illustrations, p. 737).
- E. **Giving Thanks to God is a Command**
 - “Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation. Selah” (Ps 68:19).
 - “Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Eph 5:20).
 - “In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you” (1 Thess 5:18).
 - “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” (James 1:17).
- I. **Thank God for His Provision** (v. 5)
 - A. **Physical Provision**

We need to thank God for providing us with all that we need, such as, life, food, clothing, housing, and land. We are to completely depend on God daily to meet the needs in our lives. **WE NEED GOD!**

 - “The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want” (Ps 23:1).

David expressed his confidence in God as his shepherd. He knew that God as the Shepherd cared for him and would meet all of his needs – David lacked nothing (“I shall not want”). As Believers, we can be sure that the Good Shepherd will meet all of our needs.

B. Spiritual Provision

1. God has provided us with His Word – It is true, reliable, unfailing and points us to Christ.

- “This Book contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler’s map, the pilgrim’s staff, the pilot’s compass, the soldier’s sword, and the Christian’s character. Here paradise is restored, Heaven opened, and the gates of hell disclosed. Christ is its grand object; our good is its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently, and prayerfully. It is given you in life and will be opened in the judgment and will be remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility, will reward the greatest labor, and will condemn all who trifle with its sacred contents (Grace Quotes – Anonymous).

2. God has provided us with His presence

- “I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee” (Heb 13:5).
- “I am with you always” (Matt 28:20).

3. God has provided us with an Advocate – The Holy Spirit (John 7:39; 14:16-18; 16:5-11)

The Role of the Holy Spirit. (Advocate – He is called to our side to help).

a. He is our Advocate and Helper (John 15:26)

He will testify about Christ to us. He will reveal the “Spirit of Truth” to us.

b. He is our Helper (John 16:8)

He will work in the world to convince and convict Unbelievers of their sins, drawing them to Christ to help them realize how desperate they need the One and Only Savior – Jesus Christ. The Advocate will work continuously in the life of a Believer to help him grow and mature spiritually.

c. He is our Teacher (John 14:26; Luke 12:11-12; 1 Cor 2:13)

Prior to studying the Word of God, we should always make it a habit to ask the Holy Spirit to teach us and fill us with spiritual wisdom and understanding of the Word. We should also ask the Holy Spirit to bring spiritual truths to our remembrance in situations where we need to apply them.

d. He is our Intercessor (Rom 8:26-27)

He helps us in prayer – When we do not know what to pray for or how to pray, He comes to assist us by interceding before God on our behalf based on God’s will for our lives.

- Jesus is our Intercessor. God has pardoned us for our sin and guilt. Therefore, it is Satan not God who accuses us. When he does, Jesus serves as the advocate for our defense, standing at God’s right hand to present our case (Ps 103:6; Rom 8:34; Heb 7:25; 1 John 2:2).

e. He is our Strengthened (Eph 3:16)

He helps by providing us with spiritual strength daily if we would just ask him. Paul prayed for the Believers in the church to be strengthened with might (power) by the Holy Spirit in the inner man. The Power to grow up in Christ, live for Him Daily and to do the work assigned to us by Him cannot come from any other source. It comes from God through the Holy Spirit (Phil 2:13; Acts 1:8).

II. Thank God for His Revelation (v. 7)

- **Revelation** – something that is revealed by God to humans. God’s disclosure of Himself and His will to His creatures.

A. God has revealed Himself in His Word

1. “And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus” (2 Tim 3:15).
The Word of God reveals that we can have Salvation – declared righteous in the sight of the Holy God.

2. “**The Romans Road**” reveals the way to Salvation
(Rom 3:10, 23; 5:8; 10:9, 13)

B. God has revealed Himself in His Son

1. Jesus is the Savior (John 3:16; 14:6; Acts 16:31).
2. Jesus came into the world to save Sinners (1 Tim 1:15; Luke 5:32). Christ provides forgiveness of sin for all who will believe (Acts 10:43; Rom 6:23; Col 1:14; 1 Pet 2:24).

C. God has revealed Himself as the Creator

1. Creator of Earth (Gen 1:1-25; Ps 104:5; Col 1:16).
2. Creator of Heaven (Gen 1:1; Ps 33:6; 104:2).
3. Creator of Man (Gen 1:26-27; 5:1-2; Ps 139:13-16; Jer 1:5; Mark 10:6; Ps 103:14).

D. God has revealed “The Gospel of Christ in a Nutshell”

“Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; ... He was buried, and ... He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures” (1 Cor 15:3-4).

- Death, Burial and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

III. **Thank God for Being “Merciful and Gracious”** (v. 8)

- “**Merciful**” – compassionate, merciful, full of compassion
- “**Gracious**” – to show favor, to be compassionate, long-suffering

God is merciful and gracious to all of us:

A. For the Believer – forgiveness of sin, it is God not giving us what we deserve. His mercy and grace is unmerited, undeserved, and unearned. It is God Blessing us rather than cursing us as our sin deserves. It is God withholding the punishment we deserve for our sin.

- God showed mercy on us when He sacrificed His Son, Jesus Christ, on the cross to pay the price for our sins.
- (2 Chron 30:96; Ps 51:1-2; Eph 2:4-5; Heb 4:16)

B. For the Unbeliever – God is patiently waiting for sinners to repent of their sins – Accepting Christ as their Savior. God is plenteous in Mercy – long-suffering; giving Sinners time to repent of their sins on this side of the cross.

- “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Pet 3:9).
- “Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus” (1 Tim 2:4-5).
- “And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not” (Rev 2:21).
- **Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling**
Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me;
see, on the portals he's waiting and watching, watching for you and for me.
Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies, mercies for you and for me?
Come home, come home; you who are weary come home;
earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, O sinner, come home!

IV. **Thank God for His Sovereignty** (v. 19)

- “**Sovereignty**” – royalty, royal power, reign, kingdom

A. God is in Control of all Things (Ps 24:1; 89:11; Job 23:10; Rom 8:28)

- God has not given His world and power to any man, political party or leader or cause. God is still in Control and will always be in Control.

B. God Rules Heaven and Earth (Isa 66:1)

C. God Rules the Whole World and Every Part of it (Ps 113:5; 2 Chron 20:6; Col 1:16)

D. God is in Control of His Creation at all Times – He is the Creator not the creation.
Therefore, God is Sovereign and in Control while at the same time He is close and personal (Acts 17:28).

- Allow God the Creator to rule your life
- **God's Universal Rule**
“The LORD has prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom rules over all”
(Psalm 103:19-22).

David said, "His kingdom ruleth over all." Our Saviour, as Creator, is also the God of providence. His kingdom has no limits. In Detroit, in the State of Michigan, the last place where I was before coming home, wife and child and self frequently crossed the river into Canada, just to see the old Union Jack for a bit of change from the Stars and Stripes. There is the boundary; the black, solemn deep Detroit, on which Indians paddled their canoes not so long ago. The States ended at the one shore, and when you got to the other there was another flag, another kingdom, another ruler. But no man ever yet found the limits of God's kingdom; no angel on mighty wing ever passed the boundary of God's providential kingdom. Why, the very Devil as he tumbled to the pit never got beyond the kingdom of the God against whom he had rebelled. In hell God reigns - (John Robertson).

CONCLUSION:

A. Thank God for His – Provision, Revelation, Mercy and Grace and Sovereignty.

B. Do not forget the benefits of God (v. 2) – Thank God for your salvation, family, church, material blessings, health, food, clothing, friends, transportation – **Our Blessings are Enormous.**

C. Count your Blessings, Name them One by One and it will surprise you what the Lord has done.

D. LIFE WITH ASSURANCE FOR ETERNITY

1. REALIZE THAT GOD LOVES YOU.

John 3:16, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

2. REALIZE WE HAVE A SPIRITUAL NEED.

Romans 3:10, “As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one.”

Romans 3:23, “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”

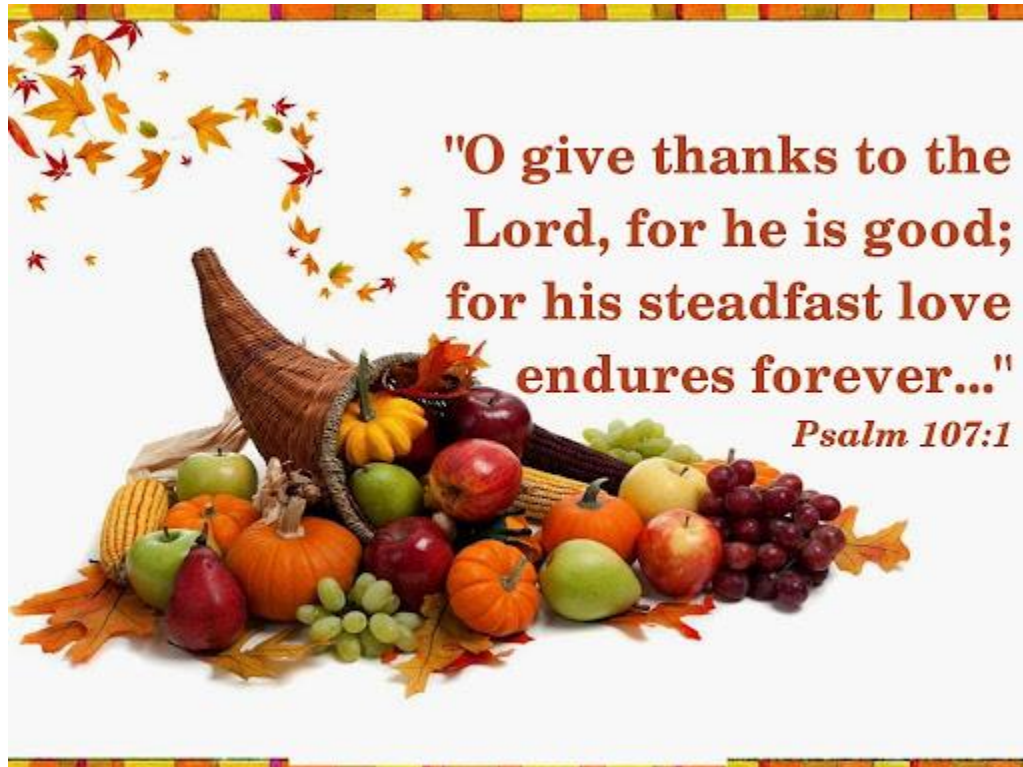
3. UNDERSTAND CHRIST ALONE PAID OUR SIN DEBT.

Romans 6:23, “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Romans 5:8, "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

4. ACCEPT THE PAYMENT CHRIST PAID FOR YOU

Romans 10:13, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."



HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

From the Teaching Ministry of
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Corinth Christian Fellowship
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"... the word of our God shall stand for ever" (Isa 40:8).