

HAPPY THANKSGIVING (Colossians 2:6-7)

Throughout God's Holy bible there is nothing that is as dominate a subject toward God than the attributes of thankfulness and ungratefulness. Thankfulness certainly is considered an attribute to those who possess such a characteristic but ingratitude in a person is considered sin and a slight toward God.

Thankfulness

Colossians 2:7 Notice that the believers 'walk' is suppose to *abound* with thanksgiving toward God. Certainly when we first come to Christ there is a period of supreme joy, but as we get “rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith” we are to *abound* (to be rich, to be filled, to exist in great quantity) in thanksgiving for everything God has done for us.

Colossians 3:12-15 Here Paul tells us that it is only when we allow the fruit of the Holy Spirit to flourish that we then can have a thankful heart toward God.

Ephesians 5:17-21 Here Paul is teaching us again regarding being thankful. He speaks of believers understanding God's will for us is to be filled with the Holy Spirit and to be submissive to each other.

Philippians 4:4-7 Paul gives us the sure recipe for having the peace of God that we all want to have. The most important ingredient in this great gift of peace is having a thankful heart.

Living in America we as believers have a life more abundant than any other country in the world. We have plenty of food, shelter, electricity, clean running water, wealth, air conditioning in the summer, heat in the winter, transportation to and from anywhere we want to go, sanitation measures, health facilities when we are sick and so many other God given blessings we cannot even count.

Ingratitude

II Timothy 3:1-2 Although we have so many blessings to be thankful for in our land, our churches are filled with chronic grumblers and complainers. We complain about the food, our family problems, our relationship problems, peoples personalities, our politicians, our preachers, the weather, the traffic, the economy, bills, material things, money, ill health, work and so on and so forth.

Exodus 3:7-8 After 430 years of slavery to the Egyptians God through His mercy and grace delivered His people Israel from bondage and promised them a land flowing with “milk and honey.”

Numbers 11:1, 4-6, 10 It did not take very long after the blessing of being 'saved' from bondage that Israel began to murmur and complain about their situation. Notice that God gets angry with an attitude of ungratefulness. When we become ungrateful about one thing it often times becomes a habit.

Numbers 13:1, 27-33 Here we see the leadership of God's people bring an evil and unfaithful report that characterized them as being unthankful to God who has been graceful and loving toward them.

Numbers 14:1-3, 27-29 Because of their ungratefulness to God for all the blessings He had given them He called them “an evil congregation” for their ingratitude. Ingratitude to God is evil and sin.

Luke 17:11-19 Here we see the attitude of people living in the last days. Only one of the lepers had enough character to return to Jesus with a thankful heart. Jesus had pity on ten but saved only one. The sin of ingratitude comes from the sin of selfishness. We think we deserve to be healthy, wealthy and wise. We must understand that we deserve nothing but what God gives us regardless of what it is.

Be Grateful

I Thessalonians 5:16-18 To be truly thankful to God requires us to have an attitude of joy in who God is and what He has done for us. Also, we must have an attitude of prayer or an attitude that we want to communicate to and with God in order to show and tell Him of our gratitude and love.