



Give Thanks

This coming Thursday, many will _____ what they're thankful for. Today, we're going to see how counting your _____ will make a difference in your life. We're here to _____ the Scriptures for God's will. Psalm 19:9 says "The judgments of the Lord are _____; they are righteous altogether." Because God is good and righteous, we can turn to His Word and be assured that it will _____ us the truths that we most need to hear and to be His people and then also to prosper. I'm thankful that God _____ us so much and blesses us every single day.

Psalm 92:1-2 says, "It is good to give _____ to the LORD, And to sing praises to Your name, O Most High; To declare Your loving kindness in the morning And Your faithfulness by night." During the Thanksgiving holiday, we _____ our blessings and express our thanks to God for them. But thanks should be on our lips _____ day. We can never _____ thank you enough to family, friends, and especially to God. Thanksgiving is not just something that we do to be kind; it also _____ us. When thanksgiving becomes an integral part of your life, you'll find that your attitude and your life _____. You'll become more positive, more gracious, more loving, and more humble.

We are utterly dependent upon God who _____ us for life. He provides all our _____. The fine-tuning of our universe which allows us to breathe, to have fresh water, to have food, and to have night and day is not an _____. God made this world for our blessing. We need to _____ God for all He has done and to be thankful. The act of giving thanks leads us to _____ hearts, minds and lives. Giving thanks will also lead us to take God and His way seriously. Nothing is more important!

Our reading today comes from Psalm 100, all five verses.

God has always _____ His people to be thankful. Paul urged the church in Colossians 4:2, "Devote yourselves to _____, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving." He had already given the _____ for this; it's because of what the Lord Jesus has done. He said, "Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so _____ in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude" (Colossians 2:6-7). Do this and it will make your _____ brighter and better. You'll be right with God and will fill your life with _____.

The Christian life should _____ with gratitude. How do we do this? Colossians 3:15-17 says, "Let the peace of Christ _____ in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the _____ of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your _____ to God. And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the _____ of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father." Let Christ's peace be your _____, sing with thankfulness in your heart, and do everything in His name while giving thanks. These changes will lift your spirits and encourage your heart. Your focus determines your

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_____ and your destiny. Hebrews 13:15 says, “Through Him [Jesus] then , let us continually offer up a _____ of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.”

It takes discipline to keep focusing your _____ on God. Life is ever changing, distracting, and often _____. Our changing _____ is declining fast in morality and faith. We may even think all is _____. We can’t predict what misfortunes may lie ahead, but we can _____ on the blessings that we now enjoy with confidence. We can remember that we are victorious in _____. We can be certain that we keep His promises, for He Himself has said , “I will _____ desert you, nor will I ever forsake you” (Hebrews 13:5).

So, we must _____ God’s teaching. In 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18 he says “pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God’s _____ for you in Christ Jesus.” In everything? Yes, in everything. In good times and in bad, give _____. When life is unfair, give thanks for what you have in Christ. Even if you _____ for the name of Christ, give thanks! First Peter 4:12-14 says, “Beloved, don’t be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your _____, as though some strange thing were happening to you; but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on _____, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are _____, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.” The “here and now” isn’t everything; the Lord will _____ those who love and serve Him.

Our struggles in this life _____ us for something better, so be thankful even for struggles. James 1:2-4 counsels us, “Consider it all _____ my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your _____ produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.” God is shaping and molding us for eternity, so don’t despair when you face a _____. Learn to be thankful for everything.

Why? First, when you are thankful, you’ll _____ complaining and grumbling. Throughout their journey in the wilderness, the Israelites _____ against God. God counted their grumbling as a lack of _____; First Corinthians 10 regards grumbling as a _____ as bad as idolatry or even immorality. Philippians 2:14-16 says, “Do all things without grumbling [complaining] or disputing; so that you will _____ yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as _____ in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I’ll have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain.” When you complain, you take your focus off of what is _____ that the Lord has done for you, and put it on the _____.

Second, when you’re thankful, you’ll stop _____ so much. Philippians 4:4-7 says, “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. Be anxious for nothing[that is, stop worrying about anything], but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your _____ be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will _____ your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” When we rejoice in the Lord and take our burdens and cares to Him, He blesses us with _____. He’ll put a guard around our hearts and minds! The Lord truly, truly gives us an abundant life.

Start rejoicing over the things that God has _____ for you, and your life will grow more positive and joyful. Proverbs 15:30 says, “Bright eyes gladden the heart; and Good news puts fat on

the bones.” Count your blessings, and focus on the good, and _____ in Christ! Put away the _____ and focus on the good. Philippians 4:8 says, “Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, _____ on these things.”

Third, when you’re thankful, you’ll become more _____ and less prideful. Remember God is the _____ of every blessing. James 1:17 says, “Every good thing given and every perfect _____ is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.” This is why the Lord, in Matthew 6:11, asks us to _____ to God, “Give us this day our daily bread.” You may work a job and think it all _____ on you, but remember God is the source of every blessing.

Moses reminded the Israelites, as they were about to enter the promised land. **Read Deuteronomy 8:11-14.** Pride leads to forgetfulness. So Moses urged them in verse 18, “But you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who is giving you power to make wealth, that He may _____ His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day.” God is the source of _____ we possess, all we are, and all we hope to be. First Corinthians 4:7 asks some arrogant people, “For who regards you as superior? What do you have that you didn’t _____? And if you did receive it, why do you _____t as if you hadn’t received it?”

Some folks _____ on themselves, and their own abilities, and their own righteousness. When a person gives thanks to God merely for what he himself possesses within himself, he’s actually _____ about himself more than he is thanking God. The Lord Jesus contrasted the arrogant person with the person who recognizes his great _____ for God. Luke 18:11-14 says, “The Pharisee stood and was praying this to _____ [not to God, but too himself]: ‘God, I thank You that I’m not _____ other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ‘I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.’ But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, the _____!’ I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.” Gratitude to God, our great need for God, removes our _____.

Fourth, when you’re thankful, you’ll be willing to be more _____ to other people. The Lord Jesus taught us to pray, “And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors” (Matthew 6:12). Giving thanks for God’s grace leads us to be willing to _____ other people. Ephesians 4:31-32 says, “Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all _____. Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.”

Fifth, when you’re thankful, you’ll express your _____. We’re thankful the Lord Jesus willingly and lovingly sacrificed Himself upon the _____. First John 4:19 says, “We love, because He _____ loved us.” Giving thanks _____ us keep our focus on the Lord and on what really matters. Gratitude for what Jesus did is at the _____ of our conversion. Gratitude leads us to be committed disciples who want to _____ the Lord in all that we do. We can’t look deeply at the cross and then walk away as if nothing matters. Our thankfulness will not let us.

Does the cross _____ to you? Surprisingly, some people _____ as if the cross didn’t matter. **Read Luke 17:12-16, when Jesus healed the ten lepers.**

When people fail to remember God, fail to honor Him, or thank Him, they lose _____ of the blessings of living as God's people. An ungrateful person will _____ apathetic and callous toward God. When people lose sight of God, they also lose sight of morality and _____. They don't realize that when they stop honoring God, they start honoring themselves.

Read how Romans 1:21-24 describes the pagan Gentiles.

Giving thanks matters. When you love God, you want to _____ Him with all your heart. Psalm 50:23 says, "He who offers a sacrifice of thanksgiving _____ Me; And to him who orders his way aright I shall show the salvation of God." Truly, giving thanks comes from our hearts and _____ in our lives. Thanksgiving should lead to thanks-living. Are you thankful?

I look forward to going to heaven and seeing Jesus, my Savior and Lord. One thing I want to do is to look into His eyes and _____ to Him "Thank you, thank you for dying for me. Thank you for shedding your blood to cleanse me from all my terrible sins, thank you for loving me and allowing me to live with you forever." But I don't want to _____ until I go to heaven to express my thanks to God. I can do it _____ by getting right with Him and by worshiping Him. I don't want to miss a _____ Lord's Day, the first day of the week, without prayer and singing and praise to Him. I don't want to miss a single Lord's Day without gathering around the Lord's table to partake of the Lord's Supper, remembering the Lord's body and blood which were given for me.

The word "thankful" actually comes from an old English word "think-ful." Being thankful comes from being think-ful. When we realize how blessed we are, we should _____ to the love and goodness of God. I think how often people today want and want and want from God, but never _____ to give their praise, and their thanks, or their hearts to Him. Have you?

Are you following Jesus and are you serving the One who loves you? God's goodness leads us to repent and obey the gospel. If I love God and am thankful to Him for His grace, I'll gladly follow and obey Him. God's love makes us want to trust in Him, to repent of all our sins, to confess His name, and to be baptized into Christ. According to Romans 6:3-7, we die with Christ in baptism, we're buried with Him in baptism, and we're raised with Him to walk in newness of life in baptism. This is so true. God wants you, He wants your heart, He wants your life, and He wants your soul. So, won't you serve Him and follow Him always. Thankfulness begins when people keep the Lord Jesus in their hearts everyday and serve Him. We hope you'll not wait another day to put your Lord on in baptism.