

A Perspective on Thanksgiving

Blocks to Thanksgiving:

• <u>Pride</u>.

<u>Critical Spirit</u>.

<u>Carelessness</u>.

1. THANKSGIVING SHOULD BE EXPRESSED.

 "Be cheerful no matter what; pray all the time; thank God no matter what happens. This is the way God wants you who belong to Christ Jesus to live." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (The Message)

 "What happened was this: **People knew God perfectly well,** but when they didn't treat him like God, refusing to worship him, they trivialized themselves into silliness and confusion so that there was neither sense nor direction left in their lives...

They pretended to know it all, but were illiterate regarding life. They traded the glory of God who holds the whole world in his hands for cheap figurines you can buy at any roadside stand." Romans 1:21-23 (The Message)

You say thank you to God when you:

- Spend time with Him (not just 1 hr a week).
- When you forgive others.
- When you serve in His church.
- When you share His Plan of salvation.

You say thank you to God when you:

- When you reach out to hurting people.
- When you give God the best of your TTT.
- When you praise Him enthusiastically from the heart.

2. OUR THANKSGIVING SHOULD BE <u>EXPANSIVE</u>

A) The <u>Blessings</u> of Life.

B) The Burdens of Life.

 "Don't drink too much wine. **That cheapens your life. Drink** the Spirit of God, huge draughts of him. Sing hymns instead of drinking songs! Sing songs from your heart to Christ. Sing praises over everything,...

any excuse for a song to God the Father in the name of our Master, Jesus Christ." Ephesians 5:18-20 (The Message) "I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing to the glory that will be revealed in us..." Romans 8:18 "That is why for Christ's sake, I delight in weakness, in insults, in hardships, in persecution, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong..." 2 Cor 12:10

C) The <u>benefits</u> of life as well.

 "Well, I wonder what today will see. Will I find my dreams OR stare in the face of tragedy? Whatever may come, whatever may be, of this I am SURE, I'm forgiven and free and I will live like I believe - It's good...

to be alive... It's good to be alive, to feel the wind in my face, see the blue in the sky. It's days like this, I realize what a gift it is - It's good to be alive.

3. OUR THANKSGIVING IS EXPECTED

A) Thanksgiving is the mark of a <u>Growing Christian</u>.

B)Thanksgiving is the mark of <u>a Giving</u> Christian.

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the father of lights." James 1:17



c) Thanksgiving is the mark of a <u>Glowing</u> Christian.

 "You know for yourselves that we're not much to look at. We've been surrounded and battered by troubles, but we're not demoralized; we're not sure what to do, but we know that God knows what to do; we've been spiritually...

terrorized, but God hasn't left our side; we've been thrown down, but we haven't broken. What they did to Jesus, they do to us-trial and torture, mockery and murder; what Jesus did among them, he does in us-he lives!..

Our lives are at constant risk for Jesus' sake, which makes Jesus' life all the more evident in us. While we're going through the worst, you're getting in on the best!" We're not keeping this quiet, not on your life. Just like the psalmist who wrote...

"I believed it, so I said it," we say what we believe." 2 Corinthians 4:13