"A REASON TO BE THANKFUL"
11/21/93

INTRODUCTION:

***Believers should: Thank God for <u>everything</u> (I Thes. 5:18)**

"This is the will of God" - the <u>desire</u> of God. God is pleased when we thank Him.

(Ps. 92:1-2 - "It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High: To shew forth thy lovingkindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night."

"In Christ Jesus" - those who are saved and "in Christ."

Being thankful is a characteristic of the wicked (Rom. 1:21); but not of the Spirit-filled believer (Eph. 5:20 - "Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ")

Many times we are like the nine lepers who never returned to Jesus to give thanks (Lk. 17:15-16).

Basically, we should thank God for:

1. Who He <u>is</u>
2. What He <u>does</u>
3. What He does for <u>you</u>
4. What He does for <u>others</u>

Specifically, what should we be thanking God for?

***Thank God for <u>who He is</u>.**

1. Thank Him for His <u>Holiness</u>

   ". . . give thanks at the remembrance of His holiness" (Ps. 30:4; 97:12).

***Thank God for what He <u>does</u>.**

Rev. 5:9-14

2. Thank Him for what He will do in the <u>future</u>

   Rev. 11:17 - "Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned."

***Thank God for what He does for <u>you</u>.**

3. Thank Him for His gift of <u>salvation</u> (in Christ)

   II Cor. 9:15 - "Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift."

4. Thank Him for His <u>goodness</u> and <u>mercy</u>
   (Ps. 106:1, 107:1, 136:1-3)

5. Thank Him for your future deliverance from <u>indwelling sin</u>
   (Rom. 7:23-25)

6. Thank Him for victory over <u>death</u> and the <u>grave</u>

   I Cor. 15:57 - "But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

7. Thank Him for you future <u>inheritance</u>

   Col. 1:12 - "I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need."

8. Thank Him before eating a <u>meal</u>

   EX: Samuel - I Sam. 9:13
   Jesus - Jn. 6:11; Mt. 15:36, 26:26
   Paul - Acts 27:35
   (Cp. Rom. 14:6; I Cor. 10:30; I Tim. 4:3)

Don't limit your heart-felt thanks to the fourth Thursday in November (Thanksgiving).

9. Thank Him for supplying our physical needs (Rom. 14:6, 7; I Tim. 4:3, 4).

10. Thank Him for what He teaches you

Col. 2:7 - "Rooted and built up in Him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving."

11. Thank Him for the Bible

Ps. 119:62 - "At midnight I will rise to give thanks unto Thee because of Thy righteous judgments."

12. Thank Him for our relationship to fellow believers

Col. 3:15 - "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful."

Thank God for your church.

13. Thank Him for the ministry He has given you

I Tim. 1:12 - "And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry."

14. Thank Him for your governing authorities (I Tim. 2:1ff)

15. Thank Him for using you to lead others to a saving knowledge of Christ

II Cor. 2:14 - "Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of His knowledge by us in every place."

16. Thank Him when someone shows concern for you (when someone cares)

II Cor. 8:16 - "But thanks be to God, which put the same earnest care into the heart

of Titus for you."

17. Thank Him in the midst of <u>problems</u> (potential worries) (Phil. 4:6-7)

EX: Peter & John (Acts 5:41
EX: Paul & Silas (Acts 16:25)

What can we be thankful about in the midst of trials?

1. That God is in control
2. That Jesus is with us (Mt. 28:20)
3. That God is teaching us about ourselves (Ja. 1:2ff)

   "Trying of your faith" = testing to prove genuineness
4. That God is producing <u>patience</u> in us
5. That God is <u>maturing</u> us (in ways we could not mature without trials)

18. Thank him for giving you <u>wisdom</u> and <u>might</u>

Dan. 2:23 - "I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee; for thou hast now made known unto us the king's matter."

***Thank God for what He does for <u>others</u>**

19. Thank Him for the <u>conversion</u> of others

Rom. 6;17 - "But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you."

20. Thank Him for the <u>faith</u> of others

Rom. 1:8 - "First, I thank my God through jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world."

II Thes. 1:3

21. Thank Him for the love of others

II Thes. 1:3 - "We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of everyone of you all toward each other aboundeth."

22. Thank Him for the zeal of others

II Cor. 8:16 - "But thanks be to God, which put the same earnest care into the heart of Titus for you."

23. Thank Him for the spiritual maturity of others

I Th. 2:13 - "For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the Word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the Word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe."

CONCLUSION:

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2. Thank Him for what He will do in the <u>future</u> Rev. 11:17 -

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3. Thank Him for His gift of <u>salvation</u> (in Christ)
   II Cor. 9:15 - "Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift."

4. Thank Him for His goodness and mercy
(Ps. 106:1, 107:1, 136:1-3)

5. Thank Him for your future deliverance from indwelling sin
(Rom. 7:23-25)

6. Thank Him for victory over death and the grave
I Cor. 15:57 - "But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

7. Thank Him for you future inheritance Col. 1:12 -

8. Thank Him before eating a meal
(Cp. Rom. 14:6; I Cor. 10:30; I Tim. 4:3)

9. Thank Him for supplying our physical needs (Rom. 14:6, 7;
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10. Thank Him for what He teaches you Col. 2:7 -

11. Thank Him for the Bible Ps. 119:62 -

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1. That God is in control
2. That Jesus is with us (Mt. 28:20)
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4. That God is producing patience in us
5. That God is maturing us

18. Thank him for giving you wisdom and might Dan. 2:23 -

***Thank God for what He does for others**

19. Thank Him for the conversion of others Rom. 6;17 -

20. Thank Him for the faith of others Rom. 1:8 - II Thes. 1:3

21. Thank Him for the love of others II Thes. 1:3 -

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Reasons to Give Thanks

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