



Spirit of Thanksgiving

Most of the time I find it easy to think of things for which to be thankful. I usually begin my prayers thanking God for the day He has provided before moving on to further thanks and petition. It is a spirit of thanksgiving which helps us to not take our blessings for granted, nor to lose a sense of the hope we have even when everything may not be going as well as we would like.

As Paul wrote to the church at Thessalonica, he tried to encourage these Christians in their continued growth in Christ and in their relationship with one another. Though they faced varying challenges, he exhorted them to continue to live godly lives, being joyful, prayerful, and thankful.

Paul urged... "GIVE THANKS IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (1 Thessalonians 5:18 ESV)

I think the most challenging word in that verse may be the word "ALL". To "give thanks in ALL circumstances" may seem like a pretty radical notion. The Greek word Paul used is "panti", from "pas". According to Vine's Expository Dictionary of N.T. Words, this word "radically means 'ALL'". Used without the article (as it is here) it means "every" or "every kind or variety."

Could that really be what Paul meant? Yes! Of course there are life situations when it is more difficult to be thankful than at other times.

Certainly, not all situations are good. However, with God, good can come out of them. (note Romans 8:28) Even in difficult circumstances there are things for which we can give thanks. The challenge is to fix our eyes on them.



A look at Paul's own life reveals that regardless of the situation he was in, he always seemed to find something for which he could rejoice and be thankful. One case in point comes from his letter written from prison to the church at Philippi.

In the Philippian letter Paul rejoiced... "(12) I want you to know, brothers, that **WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO ME HAS REALLY SERVED TO ADVANCE THE GOSPEL,** (13) so

that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. (14) And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear." (Philippians 1:12-14 ESV)

Regardless of Paul's circumstances, he was able to keep a focus on what he could still do and what others were doing for the cause of Christ. Though he could be chained, the word of God was not. (2 Timothy 2:9)

In ALL circumstances. That is exactly what Paul urged. It was what Paul practiced. And it is also what Paul pointed out as being "the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." May we ask God to help us see, at ALL times, that for which we can be thankful. Such a spirit of thanksgiving will help in empowering us to continue to press on faithful to God regardless of what we might be facing.

Have a great day UPLIFTED
BY A THANKFUL HEART!

Carl Hanson
Port Townsend, Washington

Androcles and the Lion



An Aesop's Fable reads, A slave named Androcles once escaped from his master and fled to the forest. As he was wandering about there he came upon a Lion lying down moaning and groaning. At first he turned to flee, but finding that the Lion did not pursue him, he turned back and went up to him. As he came near, the Lion put out his paw, which was all swollen and bleeding, and Androcles found that a huge thorn had got into it, and was causing all the pain. He pulled out the thorn and bound up the paw of the Lion, who was soon able to rise and lick the hand of Androcles like a dog. Then the Lion took Androcles to his cave, and every day used to bring him meat from which to live.

But shortly afterwards both Androcles and the Lion were captured, and the slave was sentenced to be thrown to the Lion, after the latter had been kept without food for several days. The Emperor and all his Court

came to see the spectacle, and Androcles was led out into the middle of the arena. Soon the Lion was let loose from his den, and rushed bounding and roaring towards his victim. But as soon as he came near to Androcles he recognized his friend, and fawned upon him, and licked his hands like a friendly dog. The Emperor, surprised at this, summoned Androcles to him, who told him the whole story. Whereupon the slave was pardoned and freed, and the Lion let loose to his native forest.

The Moral: Gratitude is the sign of noble souls.

Gratitude is quality that all of God's people should possess to a great degree. Christian's have so much to be thankful for - salvation and the necessities of life - just to name a couple. Therefore, "As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have

been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving" (Col. 2:6-7). How is your gratitude?

via Tom Moore
Malvern, AR

"Do we often complain of little things when we should be thankful for the big things?"

THANKFUL!

A foursome of senior golfers hit the course with waning enthusiasm for the sport. "These hills are getting steeper as the years go by," one complained. "These fairways seem to be getting longer too," said one of the others. "The sand traps seem to be bigger than I remember them too," said the third senior.

After hearing enough from his buddies, the oldest and the wisest of the four of them at 87 years old, piped up and said, "My friends, just be thankful we're still on this side of the grass!"

Thought question: Do we often complain of little things when we should be thankful for the big things?

Bible Studies for the week of November 27th, 2005



- AM Sermon.....For This I'm Thankful
- Scripture Reading..... Hebrews 13:10-15
- PM Sermon..... The Tribulation and the Thousand Year Reign
- Scripture Reading..... Revelation 20:1-10
- Sunday ClassThe Book of Matthew
- Wednesday Class..... The Book of Zephaniah

Kevin's Korner

As everyone already knows, this past Thursday was our national holiday, Thanksgiving! It is my favorite holiday of the year. While it is NOT a religious holiday by any means, the holiday certainly has a biblical basis. Thankfulness is something that ought to characterize the attitude of the Christian. There ought not to be one day go by for which the Christian is not thankful for something.

Many of you know that I help teach on an Internet Bible study forum. In the past several weeks someone has started a "blessing tree." Each day I log into the forum, the blessing tree is there to make me think about my blessings for the day. I try to write something for which I am thankful each day. It's not necessarily something different than what I have acknowledged before. Sometimes I write the same things. The point is that there is always some-

thing for which to be thankful. You don't have to be part of an Internet forum to do this. Why don't you take some time out of your day to write a few things down for which you are thankful. You would be surprised at how much of a difference it makes in your day. You may write them down at the close of the day and turn what seemed like a bad day into a good one. You may write them at the beginning of the day to get your day started off on the right foot. Perhaps in the middle of the day to give yourself a boost you can write down a few things for which you are thankful. If we will be thankful instead of moaning and groaning, it will go a long way toward improving our lives and our attitudes.

Let me say right now that we were blessed this past Thursday for being invited over to the Morrell's house for Thanksgiving dinner. It was so nice of them to

open up their home to us and invite us in. The food was absolutely delicious and we had such a good time visiting with them and Nancy's family as well. We had some really excellent food prepared by all and the boys enjoyed jumping on their trampoline. The only disappointment was that the Morrell's are not Dallas Cowboy's fans, but I guess I won't hold that against them (wink).

This past Friday, the busiest shopping day of the year, we made the mistake of thinking that we could go up to Branson. We thought we would drop into Silver Dollar City to see the Christmas lights. I don't believe I have ever seen so many people trying to crowd into one place at any one given time. We are thankful, however, that we had an opportunity to see them, but I think next year we will go back at some other time than the Friday after Thanksgiving.



"If we will be thankful instead of moaning and groaning, it will go a long way toward improving our lives and our attitudes."

Records for the week of November 20th, 2005

Sunday Bible Class	52
Sunday AM Worship.....	57
Sunday PM Worship.....	37
Wednesday Night Study.....	54
Contribution	\$1440.76
Budget.....	\$1662.00



Praises, Prayers, and Proclamations

Announcements

- We are thankful to God for this new Lord's Day. It is the day we honor His Son and the Love that He has shown us through Him. Let us worship in spirit and in truth!
- Please remember the following in prayer: Myra Brock, Vaughn Farmer, Bill Fort, Brian Guess, Justina Goucher, Opal Hull, Julie Sooter, James Tabor, Julie Thompson, Edith Williams.
- Tonight we will have a youth devotional here at the building. Please bring chips, drinks, chocolate and desserts.
- Our annual holiday party will be December 10th at 6:00 PM at Quigley's Castle. Please bring a friend, a \$5 gift and a potluck dish.
- Our monthly elders and deacons meeting is scheduled for Next Sunday evening.
- Our weekly Bible study at the nursing home will continue Thursday at 2:00.
- Members, please be sure to check the outreach board in the copy room.
- Those serving, please note next months assignments.
- Our pantry item is: Pinto Beans.

God's Salvation Plan

1. **Hear** the Gospel—Romans 10:17
2. **Believe** on the Lord & His Word—Mark 16:16; John 8:24
3. **Repent** of your sins—Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30
4. **Confess** Christ—Matthew 10:32,33; Luke 12:8; Romans 10:9
5. **Be Baptized** for the remission of sins—Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; Galatians 3:27
6. Live a **faithful**, dedicated life—Revelation 2:10; 2 Peter 1:5-10

Welcome!

Visit our web site: <http://www.the-churchofchrist.com>

Family Times for Worship and Study

Sunday Morning Bible Class:	9:30 AM
Sunday Morning Worship:	10:20 AM
Sunday Evening Worship:	6:00 PM
Ladies Bible Class:	10:30 AM
Wed. Evening Bible Class:	7:00 PM

Serving Each Other

27 November 2005

4 December 2005

Sunday Morning

Songs:	Bill Fort	Ken Smith
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Dan Hand	Leon Duncan
Scripture Reading:	Ray Duncan	Matthew Morrell
Lord's Table	Rusty Windle	Bruce Foster
	John Gass	George Eddings
(assist)	Matthew Morrell	Jerry Roller
	Jerry Roller	Ray Duncan
Closing Prayer	George Eddings	Bill Fort

Sunday Evening

Songs:	Rusty Windle	Clay Bozarth
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Glenn Williams	Dale Pinkley
Scripture Reading:	Jack Gentry	Brandon Foster
Lord's Table	Leon Duncan	Rusty Windle
	John Gass	Bob Moore
Closing Prayer	Bill Fort	Ken Smith

Wednesday

Songs:	Bruce Foster	Glenn Williams
Opening Prayer:	John Gass	Clay Bozarth
Invitation:	Leon Duncan	Rusty Windle
Closing Prayer:	Rusty Windle	Matthew Morrell

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