

Milk & Honey

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Spiritual Food and Encouragement for Believers in the Lord Jesus Christ

Giving Thanks Or Complaining?

Robert Gessner

We live in a culture that many times expects to be given things, but is seldom thankful for what they receive. We live in a culture that has received much and yet complains about almost everything. This can be very contagious and as Christians we can often live with the same attitude. But we are to be different. We are in this world but not of this world. A thankful person, who is not always complaining, is very rare. Thus we are exhorted: *in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.* (1 Thess. 5:18)

1. Thanksgiving Abounds To The Glory Of God. "For all these things are taking place for your sake, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God." (2 Cor. 4:15) Our greatest thanksgiving should be found in the spiritual areas of life. We should be thankful for what God is doing in the life of believers to make us more devoted to Him. We should be thankful for the souls that are being saved and added to the church. These are the things that should occupy the believer's heart. Instead we are often grumbling about the insignificant matters which are centered in the intellect and in our material comforts.

2. Liberality Causes Thanksgiving. "You are enriched in everything so that you can be liberal, which causes thanksgiving through us to God." (2 Cor. 9:11) Whenever a believer is generous with what he receives, he or she gives reason for others to be thankful. It matters not whether he or she is generous with their material goods, their time, their service to others, it will certainly result in others being filled with thanks. In Luke 12:16, "the ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully." Instead of being generous with what he had received, he sat down and made plans for hoarding these resources for himself. Instead of receiving thanks from others for what he had done, he was called a fool who had wasted that which God gave to him.

3. Prayer Leads To Thanksgiving. "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God." (Phil. 4:6) "Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it

with thanksgiving." (Col. 4:2) When we become filled with the thoughts of our troubles and the worries of tomorrow, there is no room in our heart for thanksgiving. When we empty out our hearts to God in prayer and hand over to Him all our troubles and worries, then there is room in our heart for thanksgiving. Worry and thanksgiving are incompatible. They cannot dwell together. Instead of laying her troubles at the feet of Jesus, Martha became very upset over her cares in the kitchen. The Lord Jesus said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things." (Luke 10:40) How many times He needs to say this to us, as we become stressed over things instead of giving them to Him and being filled with thanksgiving for His care and keeping.

4. Being Established In The Faith Causes Thanksgiving. "Rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving." (Col. 2:7) Without a doubt, the Christians who are filled with thanksgiving instead of grumbling each day are the ones who spend time in God's Word. They do not just read it, but they take it in and apply it to their own lives; in other words, they do not just read it, but they believe it. These kind of Christians are abounding, overflowing with thanksgiving. The Christians who are filled with self and the things of this world, become frustrated, disappointed, and this leads to complaining and grumbling. The Christians who are filled with the Word of God become heavenly minded and are filled with thanksgiving for all that God is doing and will do for them each day of their life.

5. Our Food Is To Be Received With Thanksgiving. "..... foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving." (1 Tim. 4:3,4) Living in a land of plenty or in a state of prosperity, we soon forget to even be thankful for God's daily provisions. We begin to take for granted all that we have and we arrive at a state where we expect to always have that which we desire. Then, when we are denied some material want, we quickly become discontent and begin to grumble and complain.

6. Thanksgiving Is To Be Given To God. "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honor and power and might, be to our God forever and ever. Amen." (Rev. 7:12) When we are thankful we bring honor and glory

Continued on page 2

He Is Able

August VanRyn

“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.” (Eph. 3:20)

Paul closes this great doctrinal portion of Scripture (Ephesians 1-3) with this doxology. How suitable and stirring are these words! For, after reading all the marvelous purposes of God towards poor, guilty, hell-deserving man, one might well wonder whether all this could possibly be true or be brought to pass. Oh, yes, says God, I am able to do exceeding abundantly above all you may ask or understand. God piles superlative upon superlative to assure us that all that has been revealed is not some wild dream, impossible of realization, but that it is verily true. The God who planned it in ages past is already carrying out His scheme, for the power already works in us His people, according to verse 20. And He will carry it on to full accomplishment, so that the Church will be the display of His glory throughout all ages. To Him therefore be all the glory, both now and forever. Amen.

* * * * *

The extent of His ability is seen in the manner in which Paul pyramids words to describe superabundant blessings.

Able

Able to do

Able to do what we ask

Able to do what we think

Able to do what we ask or think

Able to do all that we ask or think

Able to do above all that we ask or think

Able to do abundantly above all that we ask or think

Able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think

William MacDonald

Bitterness

“Bitterness develops over time as we nurse our anger and tell ourselves that we have good cause to be angry. We play the situation where we got angry over and over in our minds, often blaming the other person and justifying ourselves. The bitter person refuses to forgive or be reconciled. He wants to make the other person pay. Bitter people keep score.” Stephen Cole

Continued from page 1 — *Giving Thanks or ...*

to God. You have experienced what it is like when you give something to someone and they fail to even thank you or, worse yet, they grumble and complain about what you gave them. What a difference it makes when you give someone something and they say, “thank you” and mean it from the bottom of their heart. Oh, how seldom do we do this with our blessed God. He has done so much for us and we thank Him for so little. It says in Mark 14:23, when the Lord Jesus took the cup at the institution of the Lord’s Supper, “and when *he had given thanks he gave it to them.*” The cup of thanksgiving was given to them. As He gave thanks to :His Father before He laid down His life for us, so He wants us to give thanks to our Father for all that we have in Christ.

Can there be any doubt about it! A handful of thankful Christians can be a tremendous testimony in a world that is

A Set Mind

H. A. Ironside

“If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.” (Col. 3:1,2)

Occupation with Christ risen in the energy of the Holy Spirit, is the power for holiness. We are called upon to seek those things which are above, where Christ is sitting on the right hand of God. Our real life is there, our truest, best interests are all identified with Him. As the heart is taken up with Him we will be concerned about representing Him aright in this world where He is still rejected and His claims refused. As a watch is set to the sun, in order to mark the time correctly, so let your mind be set to Christ risen, in order that His life may be seen in you. This is in contrast to the things spoken of in Philippians 3:19 - “who mind earthly things.” The time for this is past for those who are now one with Christ risen. This will not make us impractical and visionary, but we shall live all the more consistently, thus fulfilling our varied responsibilities in the home, in business, in the State and, of course, in the Church, as our minds are fixed on heavenly things. We will manifest the heavenly character, just where we come closest into contact with the things of the earth. *

“It’s better to stand alone with the truth than to be wrong with a multitude.”

(Supplied by Stan Engle)

Assuming a Jewish Character

William Kelly

Excerpt from teaching on Galatians

Every religious system which takes its stand upon the law, invariably assumes a Jewish character. We need not look round far to understand this, nor to apply it. Why is it that men have magnificent buildings, or the splendour of ritual in the service of God? On what model is it founded? Certainly they are not like those who gathered together of old in the upper-room. The temple is clearly the type, and along with this goes the having of a peculiar sacred class of persons, the principle of the clergy being founded upon the notion of the Jewish priesthood. The service, where that is the case, must depend upon what would attract the senses—show of ornament, music, imposing ceremonies, everything to be seen or heard that pleases nature. It is the order of what the word of God calls the “worldly sanctuary.”

Not that the tabernacle or temple had not a very important meaning before Christ came; but afterwards their shadowy character became apparent, and their temporary value was at an end, and the full truth and grace of God was manifested in the person of Him who came from heaven. When Christ was rejected from earth and went back to heaven, all was changed, and the heart-allegiance of God’s children is transferred to heaven. The true sanctuary for us is the name of Christ. What the Old Testament connected for an earthly people with the temple, the New Testament does with Jesus. “Where two or three are gathered together in my names, there am I in the midst of them.” If there were ever so few true to that, they would reap the blessing. It is of great importance to trace things to their principle.

When the apostle wrote to the Galatians, only the germs were showing themselves; they had not got to the length of consecrated building and castes of men, with all the pomp and circumstance of religion worship suited to the world, which we see around us now, the result of gradual inroads of error upon the Christian professing body. But still there was the beginning of mischief, the attempt to bring in the principles of the law upon Christians. And what is the effect? You only fall into the position of Israel, out of Isaac’s. To be thus identified with the law is to be an Ishmael, to forfeit the promises and to become a mere child of the bond-woman. This is the argument that the apostle uses to deal with the Galatians, who were flattering themselves that they had made immense progress; but it was really a slip out of liberty into bondage. *

The Need To Die

William MacDonald

“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.” (John 12:24).

Seed never produces grain until first it falls into the ground and dies. The Lord Jesus here referred to Himself as a grain (or kernel) of wheat. If He did not die, He would abide alone. He would enjoy the glories of heaven by Himself; there would be no saved sinners there to share His glory. But if He died, He would provide a way of salvation by which many might be saved. The same applies to us, as T. G. Ragland says: “If we refuse to be corns of wheat - falling into the ground, and dying; if we will neither sacrifice prospects, nor risk character, and property, and health; nor, when we are called, relinquish home, and break family ties, for Christ’s sake; then we shall abide alone. But if we wish to be fruitful, we must follow our Blessed Lord Himself, by becoming a corn of wheat, and dying, then we shall bring forth much fruit.” Many people think that the important things in life are food, clothing, and pleasure. They live for these things. But in thus loving their lives, they fail to realize that the soul is more important than the body. *

Free Booklets

Self-Surrender

C. H. Mackintosh

This 14 page booklet is based on Philippians chapter 2 Wonderful ministry. Suggested reading.

The Assembly of God

C. H. Mackintosh

This 27 page booklet addresses a number of important questions concerning the assembly of God.

What is the assembly of God? What is it made of? What is the center around which it gathers? What is the power by which the assembly is gathered? What is the authority on which the assembly is gathered?

Write for a free copy(s).

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Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. Philippians 4:6

November, 2013

Righteousness

C. H. Mackintosh

Christ is the believer's righteousness, as we read in 1 Corinthians 1:30, "Who of God is made unto us wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption." Again in 2 Corinthians 5:21, "For He [God] hath made Him [Christ] to be sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be the righteousness of God in Him." When we had no righteousness for God, He provided a righteousness for us, and that righteousness is Christ—a crucified, risen, and glorious Christ. In the law, God was *demanding* righteousness from man. In the Gospel, God is *providing* righteousness for man. This makes a vast and marvelous difference to anyone who is honestly struggling and toiling to work out righteousness for himself before God.

There was a great difference between Adam's apron and God's coat. God never set a stitch in the former, and man never set a stitch in the latter. There was nothing for God in the apron; there was nothing of man in the coat. Hence we find that Adam's apron proved useless in the hour of need. The very moment he heard the voice of the Lord God, he was afraid and fled to hide because, as he said, "I was naked." He *ignored his own apron!* It was of no use whatever to him. It could not even satisfy his own conscience. Not so, however, when he got on God's coat. He could then say "I am clothed" because God had clothed him. The coat he wore was of God's own making. Moreover, it was founded on the shedding of blood—an all-important cardinal truth. Divine righteousness rests on the basis of accomplished redemption. The cross is the grand foundation, the great central truth of Christianity. *

York Bible Study Program

25th Anniversary

December 14th

On December 14th we will be remembering the Lord's blessings over the 25 years of the study, and going back over some of topics considered in the earlier years. Several brethren will minister the Word. Sessions start at 10AM and ends by 3PM. **Because a special lunch will be provided it would be appreciated if those attending would send us an email or give us a call. (See page 3 for phone info.)**

York Bible Study Program

September 2013 - May 2014

Date	Topic	Teacher
November 8	Lessons from Proverbs	Bruce Hulshizer
December 14	25th Anniversary	Several
January 11	OT Appearances of Christ	Mark Kolchin
February 8	Basic Church Truths	Mike Attwood
March 8	Messianic Prophecy	Bob Spender
April 12	Fruit of the Spirit	Mark Shelley
May 10	Today's Dangers	John Gordon

Quotes

"There is no sin which the blood of Christ can cleanse from, that the Holy Spirit cannot deliver from."

John Caldwell

"A genuine confession of sin will never be accompanied with an excuse." John Caldwell