

“Thanksgiving is a Verb”

Rom. 11:32-12:3

Introduction:

Proposition: Thanksgiving is not primarily a day or event, but an appropriate response to the bountiful blessings of God that he has bestowed upon you. It is strengthened by thoughtful reflection as well as by a grateful obedience to His calling upon your life.

I. The manifold wisdom, knowledge, & judgment of God

II. The manifold grace & mercy of God in Christ

III. The manifold ways to express thankfulness to God

Conclusion:

A Quote on Thankfulness from *A Christian Directory*

By Richard Baxter
Pg. 143-144

Let the greatness of the manifold mercies of God be continually before your eyes. Thankfulness is caused by the due apprehension of the greatness of mercies. If you either know them not to be mercies, or know not that they are mercies to you, or believe not what is said and promised in the gospel, or forget them, or think not of them, or make light of them through the corruption of your minds, you cannot be thankful for them. I have before spoken of mercy in order to the kindling of love, and therefore shall now only recite these following, to be always in our memories.

1. The love of God in giving you a Redeemer, and the love of Christ in giving his life for us, and in all the parts of our redemption.
2. The covenant of grace, the pardon of all our sins: the justification of our persons: our adoption, and title to eternal life.
3. The aptness of means for calling us to Christ: the gracious and wise disposals of Providence to that end: the gifts and compassion of our instructors: the care of parents: and the helps and examples of the servants of Christ.
4. The efficacy of all these means: the giving us to will and to do, and opening of our hearts, and giving us repentance unto life, and the Spirit of Christ to mortify our sins, and purify our nature, and dwell within us.
5. A standing in his church, under the care of faithful pastors: the liberty, comfort, and frequent benefit of his word and sacraments, and the public communion of his saints.
6. The company of those that fear the Lord, and their faithful admonitions, reproofs, and encouragements: the kindness they have showed us for body, or for soul.
7. The mercies of our relations, or habitations, our estates, and the notable alterations and passages of our lives.
8. The manifold preservations and deliverances of our souls, from errors and seducers; from terrors and distress; from dangerous temptations, and many a soul-wounding sin; and that we are not left to the errors and desires of our hearts, to seared consciences, as forsaken of God.
9. The manifold deliverances of our bodies from enemies, hurts, distresses, sicknesses, and death.
10. The mercies of adversity, in wholesome, necessary chastisements, or honorable sufferings for his sake, and support or comfort under all.
11. The communion which our souls have had with God, in the course of our private and public duties, in prayer, sacraments, and meditation.
12. The use which he hath made of us for the good of others; that our time hath not been wholly lost, and we have not lived as burdens of the world.
13. The mercies of all our friends and his servants, which were to us as our own; and our interest in the mercies and public welfare of his church, which are more than our own.
14. His patience and forbearance with us under our constant unprofitableness and provocations, and his renewed mercies notwithstanding our abuse: our perseverance until now.
15. Our hopes of everlasting rest and glory, when this sinful life is at an end.

Aggravate these mercies in your more enlarged meditations, and they will surely constrain you to cry out, "*Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits; who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with loving-kindness and tender mercies*" (Ps. 103:1-4).