

Nor Were They Thankful

Thanksgiving 2013

Rom 1:18-23 *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,¹⁹ because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,²¹ because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were [they] thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.²² Professing to be wise, they became fools,²³ and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. (NKJV)*

INTRODUCTION

On the annual American holiday known as Thanksgiving, many people feel obligated to vocalize some form of gratitude to God. However, many such expressions are shallow and superficial.

- *Generally speaking, people understand the importance expressions of gratitude among human beings.*
- *Most people find it far more difficult and awkward to express gratitude toward God.*
- *We find it much easier to complain than to be thankful.*
- *There is a reason why sinful human beings find it difficult to express genuine thanks to God.*



WITHOUT EXCUSE

In Romans 1, Paul defines ingratitude toward God as a fundamental characteristic of sinful humanity, which awaits the righteous wrath of God.

- *Fallen Human beings “suppress” the truth in unrighteousness.*
 - *This suppression is a denial of the obvious.*
 - *It is blatantly ridiculous and inexcusable to deny the God who is.*
- *All of creation witnesses to the existence of the true and living God.*
- *A basic knowledge of God resides within every human being.*

DEFIANT HUMANITY

Despite what sinful man knows to be true, he suppresses that truth. Paul says they refused to glorify God as God, nor were they thankful. Not only do they withhold worship from God, they are not grateful for the blessings of life that He affords creation.

- *This is an expression of original sin. Despite the blessings of paradise, Adam and Eve denied God’s right to rule over them. Such sinful independence is at the heart of man’s ingratitude.*
- *Perhaps thanking God is so difficult because the god of human idolatry is unworthy of thanks.*
- *Those who suppress the truth and deny the obvious sink into ever greater darkness. Their rebellion and ingratitude results in worthless reasoning and hearts that are wickedly dark.*

GREATLY BLESSED

God’s people have even greater reasons to give God thanks. Not only is He responsible for our very life and breath, He has blessed us with redemption. Light has flooded our hearts because of His gracious mercy. Words will always fail to render the gratitude truly owed Him.