

Why We Should Be Thankful

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Mike Miller

Straight Paths Bible Church

1 Pet 1:18-19 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; {19} But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

I. All the benefits of life and eternity have a cost.

"It is a maxim from heaven, "Honour the Lord with thy substance." He who has a religion that costs him nothing, has a religion that is worth nothing; nor will any man esteem the ordinances of God, if those ordinances cost him nothing."

- A. Cost - Expense; amount in value expended or to be expended; charge; that which is given or to be given for another thing.
- B. The law of reaping and sowing is an undeniable rule of life in God's creation.
- C. For one to benefit another must be subtracted from.
- D. For one life to be sustained another life or lives must be spent.

John 4:37 And herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth.

- E. So every blessing we receive cost someone something.
 - 1. And the depth of joy or blessing is directly proportional to the labor, pain or loss that made it possible for us to receive it.

II. The joy of true salvation should always be laid alongside the great cost to God to provide it for us.

Acts 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

Heb 9:12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

- A. Counting the cost and realizing that your joy was bought for you by someone who gave theirs up so you could have it gives your joy unspeakable sweetness.

III. We are the beneficiaries of people who paid a great price for us for the many blessings we enjoy.

- A. The forefathers of our country.
- B. Our spiritual ancestors.
- C. Our parents and grandparents.
- D. So we should take the time to "be thankful."
- E. It is something we should ponder and meditate upon.
 - 1. We should count our blessings and name them one by one.
 - 2. We should consider how we came to have those blessings, who was involved in our receiving them.
 - 3. We should consider the price that was paid, the sacrifices that were given, and the cost at which they came to us.

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**.

1 Chr 16:8 Give thanks unto the LORD, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the people.

1 Chr 16:34 O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever.

Psa 92:1 It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High:

1 Th 5:18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

F. It is the doorway into God's presence.

Psa 100:4 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.

G. An unthankful heart is one of the first steps taken when you are departing from him.

Rom 1:21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

H. Tomorrow is that one day of the year when the focus is on this matter of being thankful.

1. But most people will not be thankful to God in heaven.
2. Most people will just be glad for what they have that they enjoy, and they will call that being thankful.
3. But gratitude and thankfulness must be directed at someone because everything comes to us from God, and through people.