

**THANKSGIVING**  
**“...NEITHER WERE THANKFUL...”**  
**ROMANS 1:21**

**Introduction**

**One sure way to unhappiness in ones life is by being ungrateful or unthankful for what God has done and is doing!**

This is NOT a new problem...No, it goes all the way back to Adam and Eve. They had been blessed beyond measure with the goodness of God!  
Think about it:

**1. God had created an absolutely perfect world that was good!**

*Genesis 1:31 “And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good...”*

**2. God had created them and given them to each other!**

*Genesis 2:7 “And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.”*

*Genesis 2:18 “And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.”*

*Genesis 2:21-22 “21 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; 22 And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.”*

**3. God had placed them in the garden of Eden to live with the bounty of his fruitful creation that included every other tree that God had made including the tree of life!**

*Genesis 2:8-10 “And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed. 9 And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. 10 And a river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted, and became into four heads.*

Eden Life...Garden Life...River Life...God Life...Perfect Life!

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Yet, Eve, rather than looking at all that the LORD God had given them to have and being thankful and grateful, she allowed the serpent, the tempter, to get her looking at the tree that God had said that she and Adam were not to eat!

Rather than taking God at His Word, she chose to believe the lie of the serpent and entertained the thought that God was holding out something from them!  
*Genesis 3:4-5 “4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: 5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.”*

The serpent was implying that she didn't have the full truth!

*Genesis 3:6 “And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.”*

So, through ungratefulness or unthankfulness we got plunged into this mess called sin!

What was wrong with the tree? Nothing. It was good like all other of God's creation, but God told them not to partake of it! It was a matter of OBEDIENCE! They were given ONE COMMANDMENT and they blew it!

And the DISOBEDIENCE came through an UNGRATEFUL, UNTHANKFUL HEART! And the beat goes on!

And **Romans 1:21** bears out that unthankfulness has been the ruin of mankind plunging his heart deeper and further into darkness!

Our text expresses the character of the unregenerate heart:  
*Romans 1:21 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.*

Did Adam and Eve know God? Yes! Did they glorify Him as God? No!

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Neither were they thankful!

**Think about this matter of being unthankful:**

That a man can breathe God’s fresh air, bask in His sunshine, walk freely on God’s ground and enjoy God given health and all the bounty and blessings that the LORD loads on us daily and not be thankful for it is a frightening commentary on the depravity of the human heart!

*Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*

Oh let’s be careful about pridefully taking credit for what we’ve been blessed with by God rather than being thankful! Let’s not be like King Nebuchadnezzar in *Daniel 4:30* – “*The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?*”

*Daniel 4:34-35* – “*34 And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation: 35 And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?*”

*Daniel 4:37* *37 Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase.*

Walking in **PRIDE** is the opposite of **WALKING IN HUMILITY, AND WALKING IN HUMILITY WILL GIVE YOU A HEART OF THANKFULNESS!**

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Thanksgiving first came about in our land because godly Pilgrims, in spite of privation and hardship, could not overlook the blessing of God in their lives.

But what about these last days that we are living here in our land? Where did we get off track to slide into the depth of depravity that we see here in our own dear country! As a whole, our nation forgot what God did for us in the early days of our country! This country that used to by and large embrace God and give thanks to Him now only wants to give token acknowledgment to Him, if any at all! (Only when disasters come!)

Remember what Paul said would be a part of the last days? He called them perilous times!

*2 Timothy 3:1-5* – “*1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. 2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, **unthankful**, unholy, 3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, 4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; 5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.*

That may be the way of the world, the way of the majority in our land, the way that folks are living all about us! But that is NOT to be those of us who are the blood bought, blood washed children of God!

On the contrary! Our hearts should be **FULL OF THANKSGIVING!**

The Bible tells us in *Psalms 100:4*, “*Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.*”

*Psalms 68:19* – “*Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation. Selah.*”

*Psalms 150:6* – “*Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD.*”

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*Colossians 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.”*

We truly have a lot to be thankful for. **Fanny Crosby**, the great hymn-writer of many of the blessed hymns that we sing, was blind. But listen to what she wrote when she was the age of eight.

*O what a happy soul am I  
Although I cannot see  
I am resolved that in this world  
Contented I will be.  
How many blessings I enjoy  
That other people don't.  
To weep and sigh because I'm blind  
I cannot and I won't!*

I think that some folks have just enough religion to inoculate them against a good case of happy salvation!

R. C. Trench wrote, **“When thou hast thanked God for every blessing sent, what time will remain for murmurs and lament?”**

**I. BE THANKFUL FOR THE SALVATION GOD GIVES US!**  
*2 Corinthians 9:15 15 Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.*

*Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Titus 3:5 “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;”*

*Ephesians 2:8-9 “8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.”*

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**II. BE THANKFUL FOR SUSTENANCE THAT GOD GIVES US!**  
*Psalms 68:19 – “Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation. Selah.”*

Many times He provides and we don't realize it; other times He would provide if we would but trust Him to do so!

**III. BE THANKFUL FOR THE SERVING GRACE THAT GOD GIVES US!**

*Psalms 100:2 – “Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.”*

**A. What A Privilege It Is To Serve The LORD!**

**B. There Are Two Mindsets When It Comes To Serving The LORD!**

1. Those who think that God is privileged to have such a servant as them!
2. Those who know that they are privileged that God allows them to serve!

**C. We Are Saved To Serve Not To Just Sit!**

*Ephesians 2:10 “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”*

**D. God Gets The Glory From Our Service!**

*1 Corinthians 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.*

**IV. BE THANKFUL FOR THE STRENGTH THAT GOD GIVES US!**

*Psalms 121:2 – “My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth.”*

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*Psalms 27:1 – "The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"*

We are ALL weak in and of ourselves!

**V. BE THANKFUL FOR THE SONG AND REJOICING THAT GOD GIVES US!**

*Psalms 40:3 "And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD."*

Music and song have been a part of God's blessings in my life since the Savior set me free from the bondage of sin!

*Proverbs 17:22 – "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones."*

*Philippians 4:4 – "Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice."*

**VI. BE THANKFUL FOR THE SECURITY GOD GIVES US!**

*John 10:28 "And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand."*

*1 John 5:13 – "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."*

**VII. BE THANKFUL FOR THE SAINTS GOD GIVES US!**

*1 John 1:7 – "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."*

*1 Corinthians 3:9 For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.*

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**VIII. BE THANKFUL FOR THE SECOND COMING OF OUR SAVIOUR!**

*Philippians 3:20-21 "20 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: 21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself."*

*Titus 2:13 "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;"*

*1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 – "16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."*

**Conclusion**

But until then...

*Philippians 1:27 "Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;"*

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