

## Thanksgiving Service - 11/24/20

**TEXT- 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.*

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

**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.*

**INTRO-** Thanksgiving is not just a holiday, it's an attitude we can practice every day. Here is the opening quote from the **Thanksgiving Proclamation** signed by George Washington, President of the United States of America, October 3, 1789:

*Whereas it is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favor— and whereas both Houses of Congress have by their joint Committee requested me to recommend to the People of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness.*

*“There are three requisites to the proper enjoyment of earthly blessings: a thankful reflection, on the goodness of the giver; a deep sense of our own unworthiness; and a recollection of the uncertainty of our long possessing them. The first will make us grateful; the second, humble; and the third, moderate.”*

### I. Thankful For Our Heritage

- A. Earthly parents
- B. Church family
- C. Heavenly Father

### II. Thankful For Our Benefits

*“God has promised to supply all our needs. What we don't have now, we don't need now.” –Elizabeth Elliot*

**Php 4:19** *But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

**Eph 3:20** *Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,*

"A thankful heart is one of the primary identifying characteristics of a believer. It stands in stark contrast to pride, selfishness, and worry. And it helps fortify the believer's trust in the Lord and reliance of His provision, even in the toughest times. No matter how choppy the seas become, a believer's heart is buoyed by constant praise and gratefulness to the Lord." –John MacArthur

### III. Thankful For Salvation

- A. The opportunity to reconcile with God through Christ
- B. The opportunity to be called a child of God
- C. The fact that God isn't finished with us yet
- D. God's presence
- E. God's grace

Gratitude is an offering precious in the sight of God, and it is one that the poorest of us can make and be not poorer but richer for having made it. -Tozer

### IV. Thankful For Church

- A. Fellowship
- B. Leadership
- C. Service

### V. Thankful for God's provision and help

- A. We have a cause worth living for.
- B. We will rule and reign with Jesus someday.
- C. We have been rescued from hell and guaranteed heaven.

### CONCL -

ILL. Roland Allen tells about a veteran missionary who came up to him one day after he had delivered his sermon. The missionary introduced himself & said, "I was a medical missionary for many years in India. And I served in a region where there was progressive blindness. People were born with healthy vision, but there was something in that area that caused people to lose their sight as they matured." But this missionary had developed a process which would arrest progressive blindness. So people came to him & he performed his operation, & they would leave realizing that they would have become blind, but now they were going to be able to see for the rest of their lives. He said that they never said, "Thank you," because that phrase was not in their dialect. Instead, they spoke a word that meant, "I will tell your name." Wherever they went, they would tell the name of the missionary who had cured their blindness. They had received something so wonderful that they eagerly proclaimed it. And that is what the Psalmist is saying. "Suddenly you realize that God has been so good to you that you can't keep it inside any more. From the depths of your being you shout your joy unto the Lord."