

Thankful People



A Thanksgiving Message

Thankful People

Thanksgiving Sunday

- love the stop and pause moments
- recognize the provision of God, what we have
- aware of two realities
- can be difficult when circumstances are hard
- we can easily participate without checking for true thanksgiving in hearts

#SHADOWCREEKPUMPKINFARM

Thankful People

1. We are Called to be Thankful People

a) desire of God for you

- 1 Thess. 5:16-18 *“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”*

b) practice of Christ followers - Col 2:6-7
“Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving”

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2. Not an Easy or Natural Thing for Us

- natural person easily focuses on what I need, want, don't have – not what I do.....
- scripture instructs us – gratitude and thanksgiving can come from right perspective
- put God in right place in our hearts and thinking and the result can be gratitude, don't and we become futile in thinking

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- Rom. 1:21 *“For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. For although they knew God, **they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him**, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools”*

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Eph 5:19-20 “addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ”

Phil 4:4-7 “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

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3. Aligning My Perspective

a) God Rescued Me

- I was a sinner separated from God Rom. 6:8-11
“but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation”

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- while I was without resources, filled with rebellion, completely deserving of punishment, you loved me, sought me and provided a way

- John 3:16, Eph 1:7-10, Romans 6:23-24

b) God Placed Me Here

- Knew me from the beginning. Psalm 139:13-16

- Knew that I would be here, this time and place

- Acts 17:26 *“And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place.”*

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- called me to evidence him
- 2 Cor. 4:15 “15 For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

c) Jesus is Returning for You and Me

- Matthew 25 – parable of 10 virgins, the talents and the final judgment
- clear there is an expectation and an accounting - clear that there is reward for faithfulness

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So What?

1. Called to be a thankful people
2. Need to work at it, align myself to truth
3. Truth to respond to
 - God saved me
 - God chose and placed me here
 - God desires me to recognize and respond
 - God invites us to reflect by living with gratitude
4. Communion together