

UN-CHANGING REASONS FOR THANKS-GIVING 2021

Intro:

One of the most explicit Bible verses related to the matter of thanksgiving

1 Thes. 5:18. This verses says, "*In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*"

- This verse commands believers to give thanks to the Lord.
- Not FOR everything, but IN everything!
- **There is a big difference there!**
- Certainly, we ought to be thankful,
- Not just because we are told to be thankful,
- But because we have much to be thankful for!

However, I have discovered that thankfulness is a very fickle thing.

- Often, our thankfulness focuses on things that are physical in nature.
- We are thankful for our health.
- We are thankful for our families and our homes.
- We are thankful for our financial stability.
- We are thankful for the things we have.

Yet, all of these things are **subject to change.**

- Think about it, health can break,
- families can split up
- bank accounts can run dry.
- **What do we do then? How does that affect our thankfulness?**

I would like to suggest that we remain thankful for all the physical blessings we enjoy, and that we learn to look beyond those changing things to some things that never change.

I would like to share a few of those unchanging blessings with you this morning

Notice in these verses some **Unchanging Reasons For Thanksgiving.**

Hebrews 13:5-15 - ⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”

⁶ So we say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.
What can mere mortals do to me?”

⁷ Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

⁹ Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings. It is good for our hearts to be strengthened by grace, not by eating ceremonial foods, which is of no benefit to those who do so. ¹⁰ We have an altar from which those who minister at the tabernacle have no right to eat.

¹¹ The high priest carries the blood of animals into the Most Holy Place as a sin offering, but the bodies are burned outside the camp. ¹² And so Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood. ¹³ Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the disgrace he bore. ¹⁴ For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come.

¹⁵ Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name.

I. V. 5-6, 8 **OUR SAVIOR**

These verses tell us of just a few of the unchanging glories of our Lord! The things revealed here are **causes for thankfulness at all times.**

A. V. 5 **His Abiding Presence** - Regardless of where the path of life leads, **the saint of God will never walk alone** -

Matt. 28:20 - And teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. **And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.**”

B. V. 6 **His Assisting Presence** - The word "**helper**" comes from a word which means to "**to run**".

- The idea is that **when we are in need**,
- **The Lord runs to our aid.**
- **He is our Comforter –**

John 14:16 - And I will ask the Father, and **he will give you** another advocate to **help you** and **be with you** forever

C. V. 8 **His Anchoring Presence** - One of our greatest sources of **thanksgiving** this morning is in the truth that **Jesus never changes!**

- What He was then is what He is now!
- From before creation on into eternity,
- Jesus has never, nor will He ever change!
- He is still "***I AM!***"
- He still possesses all power in heaven and earth,

Matt. 28:18 - Then Jesus came to them and said, "**All authority** in heaven and on earth **has been given to me.**

We can always be thankful for our Savior!!!!

II. V. 9-12 **OUR SALVATION**

A. V. 9 **The Price Of It** - This verse mentions grace! We can thank God that salvation is given without cost,

Rev. 22:17 - The Spirit and the bride say, "**Come!**" And let the one who hears say, "**Come!**" Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes **take the free gift of the water of life.**

- It is purely the operation of grace!
- Think of how you came to know Him!
- Dead in sin and He sought you,
- He called you, He died for you, He redeemed you and He keeps you.
- All you did was exercise the faith that He gave you.
- He did it all!

Eph. 2:8-9 - ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast!

B. V. 12 **The Pain Of It** - For us the price was low, for God, the price was unimaginable!

- Our salvation cost God the life of His Son, **John 3:16**.
- His death on the cross is what provided salvation for you and me!
- There is no way that we can describe the gory details of the death of the Lord Jesus!
- He knew what we were and what we would be like after He saved us!
- ***He still went to the cross and died for our sins!***

C. V. 12 **The Purpose Of It** - We are told here, He suffered the death He did, so that He might "**sanctify the people.**"

- The word "**sanctify**" means "to separate from vain things and set apart for God's use."
- ***This is why Jesus died!***
- He died to take vile sinners out of their sins and
- Set them apart from this world for the glory of God.
- He saved us so that we might become different and
- That God might be able to use us for His glory!!!!

2 Cor. 5:17 – Therefore, if **anyone is in Christ**, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

****We can be thankful that we which were so lost and wicked have now been cleansed and set apart for God's glory through the blood of Jesus!

III. V. 13 **OUR SEPARATION**

A. The call of this verse is for us to **do on the outside** what He has already done on the inside.

- That is, He has set us apart inwardly through the redemption of the blood of Jesus.

- His call to us is that we willingly **take our stand with Jesus** on the outside in society.
- He is calling us to **pick up our cross** and bear the reproach of Jesus,

Matt. 16:24 - Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple **must deny themselves** and **take up** their cross and follow me.

*****He is telling us to be different**

2 Cor. 6:17 - Therefore, "**Come out from them and be separate**, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you."

B. We ought to thank the Lord that **He has made a change in us.**

- The very fact that **we don't** live like we used to,
- That **we don't** find enjoyment in all the things the world is running to,
- **That we are different!!!**
- This is a cause **for rejoicing** everyday of our lives!

******We ought to stand out and we should be thankful when we do!**

IV. V. 14 **OUR SANCTUARY**

A. Again, we are reminded that we are **living in a world** that is constantly changing.

- If **all of our hopes** are placed in this world and
- In the **physical realm**,
- Then we are going to be **disappointed** more than we will be happy.

However, the child of God can rejoice!!!!

- **REJOICE** in the fact that this world **is not the end all**,
- **Tell all of** our Christian experience!
- **Verse 14** tells us that there is **something better just down the road!**

- We can thank the Lord this morning that **when this journey is over**, We have a city **awaiting us** where we can rest from our labors
- Where we can enjoy the sweet **presence of the Lord**.
- It is a place of which we know little,
- But we do know that **none of the problems of life** will be allowed there,

Rev. 21:4 - He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.

We do know that we will be with Jesus,

John 14:1-3 – Jesus Comforts His Disciples - “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God, believe also in me.

² My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?

³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, **I will come back and take you to be with me** that you also **may be where I am**.

We do know enough to allow us **to be thankful** for that blessed home that waits for every child of God.

Conc: This morning we need to take a close look at the real blessings of the Lord!

- **Let us be thankful** for all the things He gives us.
- Let us **praise Him** for our health, our families, our financial blessings and so on. Let us not take them for granted.

Let us learn to **be more thankful** for those things which we can never lose!

Let's learn to **be ever thankful** for those things that cannot change!

When all the physical blessings have faded and we can find no reason for praise in them, **let us thank the Lord** that there are some things that will never change!

In these things we have an unchanging reason for eternal thanksgiving!

Why not come before Him right now and **just thank Him** for **Who He is** and for **what He has given you and me!**