

## Thanksgiving

- I. \_\_\_\_\_ is the natural behavior of the unsaved, not the saved
- A. Romans 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. (*Ingratitude, the mark of the unsaved, leads the heart to dwell on the "\_\_\_\_\_ " that are going on in our life.*)
- B. 2 Timothy 3:1-2 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, (*A distinct mark of the end times will be an attitude of being \_\_\_\_\_.*)
- II. Old Testament instances of thanksgiving to God
- A. Following a long period of \_\_\_\_\_ and disappointment (*1<sup>st</sup> mention of blessing the Lord in thanksgiving*)  
Genesis 9:26 And he said, Blessed be the LORD God of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant.
- Noah and his family have just gone through 120+ years of challenge, "earth shaking events", and now great disappointment in the family.
  - Recognizing the \_\_\_\_\_ of God in a sin-cursed world, Noah finds reason to praise the Lord when speaking about real events in life.
- B. Recognition by a " \_\_\_\_\_ " of the working of God in and through the life of another person during very disappointing and challenging times. (*God delivering one from and giving victory over their enemies*)  
Genesis 14:18-20 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God. 19 And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: 20 And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.
- C. Recognizing God's guidance and \_\_\_\_\_ over life's events  
Genesis 24:26-27 And the man bowed down his head, and worshipped the LORD. 27 And he said, Blessed be the LORD God of my master Abraham, who hath not left destitute my master of his mercy and his truth: I being in the way, the LORD led me to the house of my master's brethren. (*God's directing the steps of an obedient servant*)
- Abraham's servant had been given a very difficult task to accomplish
  - Abraham had great \_\_\_\_\_ in his servant accomplishing the task given
  - The servant recognized God's \_\_\_\_\_ in the whole event
- III. New Testament instances of Thanksgiving to God
- A. One man recognizing God's directing \_\_\_\_\_ concerning the fulfilling of His own will in the world. Luke 1:67-69 And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost, and prophesied, saying, 68 Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people, 69 And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David;
- B. Paul looking at the comfort and strength God gives during \_\_\_\_\_ events in our life  
2 Corinthians 1:3-4 Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; 4 Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.
- C. Paul recognizing and acknowledging God's blessings in everything we have and do in our personal life and its eventual benefit \_\_\_\_\_ Ephesians 1:3 Blessed be the God

and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ

- D. Peter recognizing that the salvation we have in Christ for \_\_\_\_\_ anything we must deal with while living on this earth. 1 Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

IV. \_\_\_\_\_ concerning our giving of thanks to God

- A. Philippians 4:6-7 Be anxious for nothing, 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 minds through Christ Jesus. (NKJV) *(There is no place for anxiety to live in the heart of the thankful trusting Christian who \_\_\_\_\_ everything in prayer to God.)*
- B. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 Rejoice evermore. 17 Pray without ceasing. 18 In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. *(An obedient prayer life is \_\_\_\_\_ with prayers containing much thanksgiving to God)*

Conclusion: Romans 8:35-39 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. 37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. 38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*Someone has written these remarks concerning this passage: "This was Paul's defiant, triumphant cry in the face of every trouble, of every contingency, of every conceivable trial or temptation, of every emergency that might arise. He seems to challenge every force of the entire universe. He laughs at death. He defies principalities and powers. he hurls the gauntlet at things present and things to come. Though to be accounted as a sheep for the slaughter and be killed all the day long, yet victory shall be his. Neither tribulation, nor distress, nor persecution, nor famine, nor nakedness, nor peril, nor sword shall separate him from the love of Christ. There is nothing that shall ever separate Paul from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus the Lord. Not only will he conquer, but he will be more than conqueror."* That which Paul stated for himself he also stated for us because he said "Who can separate \_\_\_\_\_"!