



**IS IT THANKSGIVING OR
THANKSLIVING!
1 THESSALONIANS 5:18**

OBSERVATIONS

- There are sufficient scriptures in our Bibles that tell us that God expects us to thank Him for the blessings in our lives, both big and small:

..in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. | Thessalonians 5:18

- Remember, when Jesus cleansed the 10 lepers in Luke 17? One of them, on recognizing that he had been healed came back and fell to the ground at Jesus' feet, verse 16, "giving Him thanks"
- Jesus asked him, "Were not ten cleansed? But where are the nine?" (for us - Didn't I wake you up too?)(Didn't I protect you from COVID too? or make sure you were paid this month as well?)

OBSERVATIONS

- Jesus not only deserves our thanks, but these verses tell me that He *desires our thanks*
- As we prepare this week for “Thanksgiving,” God doesn’t want our thanks limited to **ONE DAY** and popularizing the idea of eating a big meal and satisfying the flesh (The Thanksgiving Holiday rarely includes Him now, it’s called “Turkey Day”)
- God wants us to live a life of “continual thanksgiving, thus the term, “**THANKSLIVING**”
- Ephesians 5:19,20 “*giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord...*”

GIVING THANKS IS TO BE CONTINUAL AND NOT DEPENDENT ON OUR SITUATIONS

- **Our Thanksgiving or Thanksliving should be ongoing and not just when everything is going good for us**
- **Christians are not just “Fair weather friends” to God. Because the weather will change for everyone, Matthew 7:24-27**
- **The apostle Paul was able to maintain an attitude of gratitude because he held onto a proper perspective of God and of his circumstances, 2Corinthians 11:25-27**
- **He knew that God was good, and thus He knew that a Good God would only allow circumstances that would ultimately result in something good**

WHY MUST OUR THANKSGIVING BE THANKSLIVING (CONTINUOUS?)

#1 The World Is Watching You

- **The world seems to ignore the WORD when shared with them, but not the negative circumstances that happen to us**
- **The world wants to see how we react during our difficulties**

When we lose our loved ones

When we have traumatic health problems

When our marriage is hanging by a thread

When our children are on the wrong track

ONE EXAMPLE OF THE POTENTIAL OF GLORIFYING GOD IN OUR DIFFICULTY IS PAUL AND SILAS

- In Acts 16, when Paul and Silas were beaten as Christians and thrown into prison for representing Jesus, at midnight the Bible says that they prayed and sang praises to the Lord, “*and the prisoners heard them.*” verse 25 (what do we do at midnight?)
- Because of their example of Christian behavior during difficult times, they ended up baptizing the jailor (his enemy) and the jailor’s family, and God is glorified. People may change by seeing God work in your suffering; 1 Peter 4:15-16
- As Roman citizens, Paul and Silas filed a complaint against the authorities charging “unlawful police brutality.” The next day, and the officers feared for their own lives and let them go.

#2 SATAN IS WATCHING YOU! 1 PETER 5:8,9

“Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil walks around like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Whom resist steadfast in faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.”

Question: Which type of animal is a lion most likely to devour?

- 1) **A healthy gazelle; top speed 60mph**
- 2) **A weak gazelle**



SATAN IS WATCHING YOU!

- **Point:** There is no better way to resist Satan, than to thank God even when it seems that there is nothing for which to thank Him
- **Point:** We sound like a weak animal to Satan when we gripe and complain about God being unfaithful or unfair
- **Paul said that he gloried in his physical circumstances because of his perspective:**
“Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ’s sake: for when I am weak, then I am strong.” 2 Corinthians 12:10

#3 GOD IS WATCHING YOU!

- Asa, King of Judah, had been confronted by a mighty army, and instead of relying on God, he made an alliance with the King of Aram; 2 Chronicles 16 (like relying on drugs and alcohol, gambling, gifting and money schemes, theft, relying on an unlawful romantic confidant for relief)

Verse 9

“For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him. In this you have done foolishly; therefore from now on you shall have wars.”

OBSERVATIONS

*God Is Looking For People Whose Hearts
Are Committed To Him and Trust In Him
Through The Good, The Bad, and
The Ugly!*

*God Is Looking For People Through Which
He Can Demonstrate His Power and
Loyalty In Their Difficult Circumstances!
That's Thanksliving and Not
Just Thanksgiving!*

***Happy Thanksliving To
All Children Of God!***

1 Thessalonians 5:18

THE PLAN OF SALVATION

Hear the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins

Acts 17:30

Confess Christ

Acts 8:37

Be Baptized

Acts 8:38