



"It is certain that whatever seeming calamity happens to you, if you thank and praise God for it, you will turn it into a blessing."

—William Law

20-Jun-25

What Is There to Be Thankful for Today?

It is not unusual for a member of God's church to feel ill at ease with [the world](#) around him these days. Many of us feel we are living in the last days of Rome, as it were. We hear about things that we would have never heard of in years past. We begin to wonder if we will be overrun by immigrants, and see that our politicians are of mixed minds about it. Environmentalists have tied our hands in extracting necessary natural resources from the ground. We are under constant threat of war from rogue nations and terrorist groups, and our prosecution of such conflicts often leaves much to be desired.

We see the cost of just about everything going up, and every reversal of inflation makes us hope that things will return to "normal." We scratch our heads over political shenanigans. Blue states are still pushing progressive policies, while red states are trying to regain lost ground in the culture war. We cringe that public schools are teaching young children that homosexual relationships, transgenderism, and very untraditional families are normal. There is no shame anymore in couples living together before marriage or having illegitimate children.

It makes one wonder, "Have we gone mad?" It is no surprise that we feel ill at ease in a world heading for true chaos and disaster. We find it challenging to retain a positive, thankful attitude in such an environment, but we should always offer thanksgiving to [God](#), *especially* in times like these.

Thankfulness, appreciation, and gratitude mean a great deal to God the Father and [Jesus Christ](#). We know how we feel when someone has sincerely thanked us for something we have done, or when someone gives us a nice thank-you gift, not for any special occasion, but simply because he or she wants to show some appreciation. The Father and the Son have the same feelings.

Thankfulness is giving the gift of appreciation. Years ago, our children, who were not well off by any means, purchased a new gas dryer for us. They did not give it to us for any special occasion. It was just a gift that said, "Thanks for being mom and dad." Needless to say, we were flabbergasted, but to this day, when I see that no-longer-pristine dryer, I often remember the [kindness](#) of our children with a special warmth.

Similar in principle, [II Kings 5:1-16](#) tells the story of Naaman, who God healed of leprosy through Elisha. Rather than just taking his healing for granted and returning home, Naaman realizes that the great gift he had been given came from God and that all other gods were meaningless. In deep appreciation, he attempted to offer thanks by giving costly gifts to Elisha.

How important is it to be thankful? [Romans 1:20-21](#) presents us with a few reasons:

For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and [divine nature], so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

The apostle Paul is telling us that, when we neglect to be thankful, we begin to change:

- Our hearts become hard and selfish.
- We forget those to whom we are not thankful. When we fail to appreciate others, we neglect to see their worth and value.
- When we are not thankful for what we have been given, we soon take our blessings for granted.

An unwillingness to thank God for His great [love](#), mercy, and all the other things He provides and does for us will eventually alienate our affections and harden our hearts toward Him, causing us to be blinded to all that He is doing in our lives. We can strive to obey God, receive His blessings, and approve of His laws and actions, but if we fail to praise and thank Him, an important aspect of our spiritual development is missing. In a sense, gratitude is the glue that cements our relationship with Him!

This end-time environment can pull us down if we do not take time to consider all that has been done for us. The [Passover](#) season annually reminds us of who we are and the price paid for us in great love, so that we can be forgiven and come before the great God of the universe. However, we should not limit this lesson to just springtime; it is a good idea to remember this fact frequently throughout the year. The long, hot summertime and the sometimes dreary late fall and winter months are excellent times to remember why we should have a thankful heart at all times, despite what is happening in the world.

The apostle Paul tells us in [II Corinthians 3:16](#) that the veil of blindness has been lifted from our minds to give us understanding of spiritual matters that this world cannot comprehend. What God has given us is considered a treasure placed in human vessels ([II Corinthians 4:7](#)). Do we value that as highly as we should? Do we thank God for it? Even if it brings us persecution, we are to give thanks for it. Jesus says in [Luke 6:23](#) that we should "rejoice in that day and leap for [joy](#)!"

As we witness our country reel in moral confusion, it can be difficult to offer thanks. Yet, the giving of thanks to God is of the utmost importance. When we have a thankful relationship with God, our whole attitude changes toward

[repentance](#) and obedience, and overcoming takes on new meaning. When we truly thank God, we reflect our love toward Him, and we seek to honor Him.

God, who is capable of far greater feelings than what we can express, highly appreciates our thankfulness toward Him, and it results in blessings toward us, especially those of the Spirit. Perhaps best of all, He draws us closer to Him, and our relationship with Him grows.

We live in an unthankful world, and we in this nation take many of God's wonderful blessings for granted, never considering all the sacrifices that have been made to produce them. Because we live in this greatly blessed country, though we are not truly part of it (see [John 17:14-16](#)), we must train ourselves to consider our blessings and give thanks. When we do, it is a win-win situation. We win because we focus on God and His work, and God wins because in our response to Him in giving thanks, He draws us closer to Him.

In tumultuous times like today, then, remember [I Thessalonians 5:16-18](#): "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

- John O. Reid

New Transcripts

[1821A: Taking an Insult](#)

Given by Ted E. Bowling on 07-Jun-25

[1821B: Speaking the Truth in Love](#)

Given by Bill Onisick on 07-Jun-25

[1823: Jabez: 'That I May Not Cause Pain'](#)

Given by Mark Schindler on 14-Jun-25

[BS-AC15: Acts \(Part Fifteen\)](#)

Given by John W. Ritenbaugh on 27-Dec-88

[FT02-06s: The Humblest of Beginnings](#)

Given by David C. Grabbe on 24-Sep-02

[FT02-09s: Teach Your Children](#)

Given by Bill Cherry on 26-Sep-02

From the Archives: Featured Sermon

[The Spirit of Gratitude](#)

by Charles Whitaker (1944-2021)

Ingratitude is one of the most common as well as one of the most egregious sins. Proper thanksgiving and the spirit of gratitude are necessities of life. Pride, the kind demonstrated by Nebuchadnezzar when he boasted about what he had accomplished, militates against any feelings of gratitude. Thanksgiving begins with a mindset to see, appreciate, and recognize God. To not recognize God is tantamount to idolizing the self. The spirit of thanksgiving involves a spirit of sacrifice, sacrificing our ego, sacrificing our own lives, and our prideful self-sufficiency, yielding to God's calling out into the body of Christ. The apostle Paul admonishes us repeatedly to be thankful for our shelter in Christ's spiritual body.

From the Archives: Featured Article

[Daily Thanksgiving](#)

by Staff

Too many Americans confine their giving of thanks to the one day on which the national holiday occurs - and many confine their activities on Thanksgiving to little more than eating and drinking too much, watching football, and planning their Black Friday shopping trip. Answering four vital questions about thanksgiving will help us to evaluate our approach to this spiritual duty.

Featured Audio Schedule

Friday Night Bible Study

The next Bible Study (Friday 20-Jun-25) will be **Acts (Part Fourteen)**, given by **John W. Ritenbaugh**. The Bible Study will be featured on the [CGG homepage](#) from **6:00 pm Friday** (EST) and all day Saturday.

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