

# **“Thank You, Lord” (The Attitude of Gratitude)**

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

## Introduction:

A. An old Kentucky “recipe” for washing clothes will help us appreciate the good life we have. “Build fire in the back yard to heat the rain water ... set the tubs so the smoke won’t blow in your eyes ... shave a whole cake of soap in boiling water ... sort the clothes in three piles – 1 pile of white – 1 pile of colors and one pile of rags and one pile of work britches ... rub dirty spots hard on a scrub board ... hang clothing on the line, spread towels on the grass, and hang rags over the fence ... pour rinse water in vegetable garden ... scrub porch with the soap water ... turn the tubs upside down ... put on a clean dress ... brew some coffee ... sit and rock a spell and count your blessings.”

B. Every day should be a day of thanksgiving on the Christian’s calendar.

1. The Bible teaches us by direct command to be grateful.

a. Eph. 5:20; Col. 2:7

2. It is God’s will that we be thankful - 1Thes. 5:18; Matt. 7:21

3. Jesus was thankful - Matt. 11:25; 1Peter 2:21-22

4. David - 1Chron. 16:7-36

5. Daniel - Dan. 6:10

6. Paul - Acts 27:35

7. Angels - Rev. 7:11-12

C. We ought to be very concerned about being ungrateful; the ungrateful will miss heaven.

1. This sermon is not about saying thank you to God or man; it is about living thank you before God and man.

## **A. NEVER FORGET**

1. Psalm 103:2 - Forgetfulness is the enemy of gratitude.

a. Though Joseph befriended him, the butler forgot him - Gen. 40:23

b. Only one of the ten lepers that Jesus healed remembered; did not forget to thank Jesus - Luke 17:11-19

2. “Blessed are those who give without remembering and those who receive without forgetting.”

a. They are fools because they believe that “I forgot” excuses them.

b. They are sinners because they forget to reciprocate when the circumstances are reversed.

## **B. DO NOT OBSESS ABOUT YOUR TROUBLES**

1. We need to count our blessings, not our bruises.

a. How often have you see people date matters from a given tragedy, “that happened in the year of the tornado.”

b. If we are not careful while we walk the pathway of life we will never pluck a rose, but will pluck many thorns, weave them into a crown, and wear them on our hearts.

- c. Because she did not dwell on her troubles, Fanny J. Crosby, who was blind, could still write, “with numberless blessings each moment He crowns,” in her hymn, “A Wonderful Savior.”
  - d. One little boy was heard to thank God in his bedtime prayers for his eye glasses, for they kept the boys from punching him and the girls from kissing him.
2. Matthew Henry, after having his house robbed, wrote in his diary, “Let me be thankful: 1) he never robbed me before, 2) he did not take my life, 3) and it was he that robbed and not I.”
  3. We must firmly believe - Rom. 8:28

### **C. THINK OF HOW WELL OFF YOU ARE RELATIVE TO SO MANY OTHERS**

1. How would we handle it if we were reduced to the same level of many people in the world?
2. Just over one billion people in this world are classified at the severe poverty level, and they live on about \$1.90 per day. (World Bank, 8/23/21)

### **D. COUNT THE BLESSINGS YOU HAVE, RATHER THAN CONCENTRATING ON WHAT IS MISSING**

1. 1Tim. 6:8; Heb. 13:5
2. How many times have we sang, “Count your many blessings, name them one by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord hath done,” and yet, fail to do what we sing?
  - a. Eph. 1:3
3. Such a one sins by being self-centered.

### **E. EXPRESS GRATITUDE VERBALLY**

1. Psalm 107:1-2, 116:12
2. God the Father desires for His children to express their love and gratitude.
  - a. We must express our gratitude by our lives as well as by our lips. Thanks-saying is not necessarily as thanks-living.
  - b. Gratitude is more about what you say than what you do.

### **F. DO NOT TAKE COMMON BLESSINGS FOR GRANTED**

1. We become thankless because we drift into thoughtless. Think and thank come from the same root word.
  - a. Old English: þancian - “to give thanks, thought, gratitude; originally ‘thought,’ but by 1000 AD - ‘good thoughts, gratitude’; from same root word as think” (Oxford English Dictionary)
  - b. For example, if the sun did not rise one morning, we would become hysterically frantic; but, what about the many days the sun does rise?

### **G. AVOID FOCUSING ON THE LUXURIES OF LIFE**

1. Luke 12:15 - We must be thankful for the simple necessities.
2. We need to be emphatically thankful for the spiritual things.

## **H. STOP MURMURING AND COMPLAINING**

1. Instead of remaining continually grateful for their deliverance from Egypt, Israel soon began to murmur and complain - Num. 14:2, 11:4-6
  - a. 1Cor. 10:10; Eph. 5:20; Phil. 2:14

## **I. REMEMBER THAT WE ARE THE RECIPIENT, NOT THE GIVER**

1. All that we have we received from God - James 1:17
  - a. 1Cor. 15:10
  - b. The rich farmer failed to realize this - Luke 12:16-21
  - c. Are we more interested in the gift than the giver?
2. They sin because they believe that their hardships entitle them to blessings from God or to help from others.

### Conclusion:

1. "An ungrateful man is like a hog under a tree eating acorns, but never looking up to see where they come from." (Timothy Dexter)
2. "He is ungrateful who denies that he has received a kindness which has been bestowed upon him; he is ungrateful who conceals it; he is ungrateful who makes no return for it; most ungrateful of all is he who forgets it." (Seneca)

"That man may last, but never lives,  
Who much receives, but nothing gives;  
Whom none can love, whom none can thank,  
Creation's blot, creation's blank."