

GIVE THANKS!

(I Thessalonians 5:18)

- Introduction:
1. I suppose that potentially, one of the churches greatest shames is ingratitude.
 2. To have so much, and not give thanks is a repulsive sight.
 3. (II Thessalonians 2:13) Paul was "**bound**" to always give thanks to God.
 4. (I Thessalonians 5:18) "***In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.***"
 5. This lesson is designed to remind you of just a few reasons you ought always give thanks to God.

I. WE HAVE BEEN MADE IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

- A. (Genesis 1:26-27).
- B. Is it not good news to know that you will survive the death of your body?
- C. Aren't you thankful that everlasting life has been extended to you?
- D. (I Peter 1:4) We have an inheritance reserved in heaven.
- E. Being made in the image of God, and by trusting in the One God sent, I can be released from the fear of death (Hebrews 2:14-15).

II. JESUS CARES FOR US

- A. It is a terrible feeling to think that nobody cares for you, and many suffer in this loneliness.
- B. But as a Christian, while we may have our moments of discouragement, we can never truthfully say, "*Nobody cares about me.*"
- C. (I Peter 5:7).
- D. (Hebrews 4:15).
- E. Are we not blessed to have such a Savior?

III. JESUS IS OUR JUSTIFIER

- A. In a sense, when we obeyed the gospel, Jesus no longer stood as our Judge, but He became our Justifier.
- B. (Revelation 12:10) Satan is the accuser of the brethren.
- C. But to whom does He bring his accusations? God, who is our Justifier.
- D. (Romans 8:31-34).
- E. With Jesus as my justifier, Satan cannot win.

IV. JESUS IS OUR PROPITIATION

- A. (I John 2:1) The word propitiation means to "regain the favor of; reconciliation."
- B. (Romans 4:7-8) Our sins are covered.
- C. Is not the fact that Jesus has clothed (covered) our lives with garments of righteousness, holiness, and purity reason to be thankful?

- Conclusion:
1. We have much for which to be thankful, if we are Christians.
 2. Let us remember to maintain that disposition.
 3. Matthew Henry, an esteemed Bible scholar was once robbed, prompting him to enter the following into his daily diary: *"Let me be thankful first, because he never robbed me before; second, because although he took my purse, he did not take my life; third, because although he took all I possessed, it was not much; and fourth, because it was I who was robbed, and not I who robbed."*