

Text: 1 Thess 5:16-18

Title: The Duty of thanksgiving.

Thesis: The Christian is duty bound to give thanks to God in all circumstances.

Intro: Must you give thanks?

- I. Examination of the text.
 - A. 1Thess 5:16 Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
 - B. 3 Imperatives (commands) are given on the basis that they are the will of God for every Christian.
 1. Rejoice always.
 2. Pray without ceasing.
 3. In everything give thanks.
 - C. In everything give thanks means in all situations or circumstances.
- II. The doctrine taught: The Christian is duty bound to give thanks to God in all circumstances.
 - A. This is commanded not suggested.
 - B. Biblical confirmation of the point.
 1. Eph 5:20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,
 2. Php 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;
 3. Col 3:17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.
 4. Job 1:21 And he said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; Blessed be the name of the LORD."
 5. Ps 34:1 A Psalm of David when he pretended madness before Abimelech, who drove him away, and he departed. I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.
 6. Heb 13:15 Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.
 - C. Commentary on this point.
 1. Barnes: "We can always find something to be thankful for, and there may be reasons why we ought to be thankful for even those dispensations which appear dark and frowning... So we may praise God for everything that happens to us under his government. A man owes a debt of obligation to him for anything which will recall him from his wanderings, and which will prepare him for heaven. Are there any dealings of God towards men which do not contemplate such an end? Is a man ever made to drink the cup of affliction when no drop of mercy is intermingled? Is he ever visited with calamity which does not in some way contemplate his own temporal or eternal good? Could we see all, we should see that we are never placed in circumstances in which there is not much for which we should thank God. And when, in his dealings, a cloud seems to cover his face, let us remember the good things without number which we have received, and especially remember that we are in the world of redeeming love, and we shall find enough for which to be thankful. For this is the will of God. That is, that you should be grateful. This is what God is pleased to require you to perform in the name of the Lord Jesus. In the gift of that Saviour he has laid the foundation for that claim, and he requires that you should not be unmindful of the obligation."

2. Calvin: "... God has such a disposition towards us in Christ, that even in our afflictions we have large occasion of thanksgiving. For what is fitter or more suitable for pacifying us, than when we learn that God embraces us in Christ so tenderly, that he turns to our advantage and welfare everything that befalls us? Let us, therefore, bear in mind, that this is a special remedy for correcting our impatience—to turn away our eyes from beholding present evils that torment us, and to direct our views to a consideration of a different nature—how God stands affected towards us in Christ."
3. Clarke: "*In every thing give thanks* For this reason, that all things work together for good to them that love God; therefore, every occurrence may be a subject of gratitude and thankfulness. While ye live to God, prosperity and adversity will be equally helpful to you."
4. Henry: "We should be thankful in every condition, even in adversity as well as prosperity. It is never so bad with us but it might be worse. If we have ever so much occasion to make our humble complaints to God, we never can have any reason to complain of God, and have always much reason to praise and give thanks: the apostle says, This is the *will of God in Christ Jesus concerning us, that we give thanks*, seeing God is reconciled to us in Christ Jesus; in him, through him, and for his sake, he allows us to rejoice evermore, and appoints us in every thing to give thanks. It is pleasing to God."

III. The doctrine applied:

- A. You have a Christian duty to thank the Lord in good times.
- B. You have a Christian duty to thank the Lord in bad times.
- C. You have a Christian duty to thank the Lord at all times for His mercy to you in Christ endures forever.
 1. 1CH 16:34 O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever.
 2. PS 106:1 Praise ye the LORD. O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.
 3. PS 107:1 O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.
 4. PS 118:1 O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: because his mercy endureth for ever. [2] Let Israel now say, that his mercy endureth for ever. [3] Let the house of Aaron now say, that his mercy endureth for ever. [4] Let them now that fear the LORD say, that his mercy endureth for ever.

Conclusion: We are taught in 1Thess 5:16-18 that the Christian is duty bound to give thanks to God in all circumstances. Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, His mercy endures forever.