

AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

Remember

I. In the last days unthankfulness will be prevalent-2 Timothy 3:1

- A. People have no peace & that's the number one way we know that their not thankful
- B. Believers are lacking grace because they're not thankful

II. As believers we should be marked by thanksgiving, the way we are to be marked by love

- A. Psalm 18:49-The heathen (unsaved) need to be hearing you and I say thank God
- B. Psalm 79:13-We are going to give thanks forever
- C. Psalm 92:1-It's a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord
- D. Psalm 140:13-Surely the righteous will give thanks
- E. The importance of being thankful-1 Chronicles 16:8
 - 1. 4-1 Chronicles 16:41, 23:27-30- Part of the Levites job along with keeping up with the temple duties was to thank God; Thanking God must be important
 - 2. 8-Part of giving thanks is when God is good to you, you tell people
 - 3. 9-You talk about how good his been to you in your life
 - 4. 12-Part of being thankful is you remember what God has done
- F. Psalm 26:7-The voice of thanksgiving; Thanksgiving has a voice it has sound
 - 1. The voice of thanksgiving is one of joy, peace, and faith
 - a. The voice of thanksgiving is light; it's not dark and heavy and down
 - 2. Ephesians 5:4-Put thanksgiving in your mouth rather than filthy and foolish talk
 - 3. Our songs should be giving thanks to God-Psalm 147:7
 - a. Ezra 3:11-The didn't sing together about how hard it was, about their problems, or to draw people in emotionally; they sang to give thanks to God
 - 4. 1 Corinthians 14:16-17-You can give thanks in an unknown tongue

III. Thanksgiving is a huge part of our communication with God

- A. Psalm 95:2-We are to come before His presence with thanksgiving
 - 1. This was written to the OT people
 - a. We live in His presence; he's in us and we are in Him all the time and that's why we are to have thanksgiving on our lips at all times
 - 2. As you practice thanksgiving you are practicing His presence
 - a. Thanksgiving is a big key in developing your relationship with God
 - b. Thanksgiving helps u to be closer to him, more intimate w/ Him, more aware Him
 - c. Thanksgiving will develop your sensitivity to his voice, to his leading
- B. Psalm 100:4-Always address God with thanksgiving; It's scriptural to start with thank you

1. Colossians 4:2-Prayer should be with thanksgiving and continue w/ thank you

IV. We give thanks to God b/c His is good & his mercy endures forever-1 Chronicles 16:34

- A. 1. We give thanks to God because he is good
 1. Focusing on the goodness of God will stir up thanksgiving in you
- B. 2. We give thanks because his mercy endures forever
 1. His mercy is His undeserved love & grace & if it's unearned we should give thanks
- C. It doesn't say give thanks because he's been good or merciful to you (even though he has); It says give thanks because He is good and his mercy endures forever
 1. That means whether it looks like He's being good to you or you're seeing his faithfulness, kindness, and love in your life give thanks because He still is good and his mercy still endures forever
 2. If that's your motive for giving thanks, you'll always do it because God is always going to be good and His mercy is always going to endure forever (That's why I give thanks-there will be times when you have to do it by faith)
- D. Psalm 119:62-At the darkest hardest points of ur life you should be giving thanks to God
 1. Never the less says David I do not allow myself to sink into despair; rather precisely at this black moment, I push myself to new heights of appreciation for your righteous judgments and I sing your praises with renewed vigor and conviction

V. A huge part of being thankful is remembering

- A. Psalm 30:1-12-Remembering God's holiness will bear the fruit of thanksgiving
 1. 1-3-This is God's holiness
 - a. Psalm 97:12-Rejoice in the Lord, ye righteous; and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness
 2. 12-Thanksgiving is not silent
- B. Psalm 105:1-45-He starts this Psalm and finishes it with Give thanks and Praise Lord and in the middle of those two bookends he's spending time remembering
 1. 1 of the major things that'll move u into thanks is remembering what God has done
 2. When you're unthankful you're forgetting
 - a. You're forgetting, not acknowledging all that the Lord has done in your life
- C. Psalm 106:7-They weren't remembering the multitude of his mercies & they were unthankful at the Red Sea
 1. Exodus 14:11-12-They've been delivered from bondage; they're breathing their firsts breaths as free people; they're healed, they have Egypt's silver & gold & they r not being thankful; The healed, they're rich, they're delivered and they're not thankful
 - a. 12-They were thankful after the fact only and that is not acceptable
 2. 13-Forgetting and being unthankful go together

- a. Exodus 15:24-They murmured when the water was bitter
 - b. Exodus 16:2-They murmured when there was no bread
 - c. Exodus 17:3,7-They tempted God
 - d. Exodus 32:1-I'm sure complaining accompanied Moses being gone too long
 - e. Numbers 11:1-5-Complainig does not please God
 - 1) 5-They were unthankful for the manna because they wanted meat
 - f. Numbers 13-14:22-They tempted God
 - 1) 14:2-They're murmuring and not being thankful because they have forgotten
 - a) God's gotten them out of Egypt, they're free people, they were all healed, all rich, they made it through the wilderness, they're on the outskirts of the greatest place that their eyes have ever seen and they've been delivered time and time again, they were fed food, they had water to drink, they had the cloud of God by day and the fire of God by night and here they are inches away from the dream land and they deserved none of it; the complained and murmured and didn't believe and yet God delivered them time and time again-That's Grace
 - b) They should have been out saying Lord thank you; you have been so merciful, so gracious, and so good to us, thank you; You've delivered time and time again, we tried your patience and you were merciful to us; we needed water in the desert and you gave it to us; we need food in the wilderness and you provided it for us; we needed deliverance at the red sea and you delievered us; Thank you; You've protected us and provided for us and in the middle of us deserving none of it; and yet here we sit on the outskirts of the greatest place we've ever laid our eyes upon; they should have been so thankful
 - 2) 14:1-4-Unthankfulness makes you dumb
 - a) They only way the made it through the desert, through the wilderness with food to eat, water to drink, protected and preserved was by the grace of God and they complained about how bad that trip was the whole time and yet now they want to make the trip again to go back to Egypt; they want to travel through the same wilderness where there was no food and no water
 - b) Moses told them over and over again why God brought them out of Egypt and they're still asking why did God bring us out of Egypt?
 - 3. 24-They despised the thing that they should've been thankful for; DANGEROUS
 - 4. 32-45-After all this mess they did he was so merciful to them
 - a. They should be thankful
- D. Psalm 136:1-26-His giving thanks "bookend" his remembering

E. Psalm 107:1,7,15,21,31-There's not enough thanksgiving being given to God

1. The wise person will consider observe these things; they'll give thanks to the Lord and acknowledge his goodness and mercy in their lives and as they do they understand the loving kindness of the Lord