

F. Y. C.

For Your Consideration

❖ NOVEMBER 2019 ❖



Giving Thanks

“... not even
when one has an
abundance does
his life consist of
his possessions.”

Luke 12:15

What counts in life is not things, but relationships: Family and friends with whom we share life experiences; fellow Christians with whom we share a common faith; Our Lord Jesus Christ with whom we share a spiritual bond.

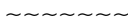
Be thankful for what really counts!

Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.

Hebrews 13:15

Oh give thanks to the LORD, call upon His name; Make known His deeds among the peoples. Sing to Him, sing praises to Him; Speak of all His wonders. Glory in His holy name; Let the heart of those who seek the LORD be glad. Seek the LORD and His strength; Seek His face continually. Remember His wonders which He has done, His marvels and the judgments uttered by His mouth.

Psalm 105:1-5



“Give Thanks” is found forty-four (44) times in the Book of Psalms.

Count Your Blessings

It is so easy to let the affairs of life cloud our view of what the Lord has done, is doing, and has promised to do. Troubles and trials, busy times, trying times, and sad times, can cause us to lose sight that as children of God we are truly blessed.

He who gives attention to the word will find good, and blessed is he who trusts in the Lord. Proverbs 16:20

How blessed are the people who know the joyful sound! O LORD, they walk in the light of Your countenance. In Your name they rejoice all the day, And by Your righteousness they are exalted.

Psalm 89:15-16

How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered!

Psalm 32:1



Recommended Activity

It is good for us to count our blessings from time to time. Bringing them to mind helps us see just how many there are. A good way to keep our memory fresh is to write down our blessings and put them in a prominent place in our homes.

Read your list daily and it will remind you how blessed you are, especially spiritually (which matters most because it involves more than this earthly life).

A Less Than Perfect Church

It shouldn't come as a surprise to anyone who understands human nature, that there is no perfect congregation. Backgrounds, training, spiritual maturity (and immaturity) vary among members. Differing judgments and opinions are often held by sincere, God-fearing members.

Even in churches like the one in Philippi, which received much praise and commendation from the apostle Paul, there were problems. One glaring example is found in chapter 4: "I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to live in harmony in the Lord." No doubt these two women were zealous in their service to the Lord, but for some reason they had difficulty tolerating one another.

The churches of Galatia had their problem members and problem teachers, as well as most of the churches addressed in the Revelation letter. The church at Corinth had more than its share of imperfect members.

The Apostle Paul (and the other inspired writers) told the disciples to work out their problems together. Only in cases of extreme corruption was separation decreed.

The Lord was well aware that the church would be composed of members in various stages of spiritual development. That is why He gave His followers instructions on how to deal with such imperfections and weaknesses. The following references contain some of His instructions:

Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not just please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to his edification. For even Christ did not please Himself. Romans 15:1-3

However not all men have this knowledge; but some, being accustomed to the idol until now, eat food as if it were sacrificed to an idol; and their conscience being weak is defiled. But food will not commend us to God; we are neither the worse if we do not eat, nor the better if we do eat. But take care lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak.

1 Corinthians 8:7-9

Now accept the one who is weak in faith, but not for the purpose of passing judgment on his opinions. One man has faith that he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats vegetables only. Let not him who eats regard with contempt him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats, for God has accepted him. Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and stand he will, for the Lord is able to make him stand. One man regards one day above another, another regards every day alike. Let each man be fully convinced in his own mind ... But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God.

Romans 14:1-10

And the Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.

2 Timothy 2:25-26

EDIFY AND HELP ONE ANOTHER

Our efforts are to be directed toward edifying one another, helping one another. We must be willing to put up with less-than-perfect brethren, so that they can "work out their salvation with fear and trembling." They are not to be shunned or judged.

While it is fruitless to look for a "perfect" church, it also is unwise for members to be unwilling to associate with brethren who are less-than-perfect. Such thinking puts one in an unenviable position of not being able to find a congregation which meets his or her standard.

One final and humbling, thought: Others put up with me — one who must admit to being less-than-perfect.



Ponder **Practice,** This **Practice,** **Practice!**

The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

Philippians 4:9

PRACTICE (Greek: prasso) to perform repeatedly or habitually. Do it over and over so that it becomes a habit. Do it to become skilled in applying it to daily living.

LESSON

Living for Jesus takes practice, practice, and more practice. To put it another way, it's making daily application of what we have learned.

AT ALL TIMES

Every day of the week. Every activity you engage in. Every situation you encounter. Every opportunity you experience. Every trial you endure. Every temptation you face.

To borrow a current term that indicates "at all times": It's 24/7!

Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

Galatians 5:24-25

There is no substitute for practice. Absolutely nothing!



WORD STUDY

enhance your Bible knowledge

Knowledge:

The state or fact of knowing.

Discernment:

Exhibiting keen insight and good judgment.

And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ.

Philippians 1:9-10

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### **real knowledge**

We need to know the true contents of the New Testament (the Gospel).

### **all discernment**

We need to exhibit acute insight and exercise good judgment in determining how it is to be applied.

### **so that you may approve the things that are excellent**

We need to combine the knowledge gained with good judgment in approving how we live.

### **in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ.**

Our goal needs to be to live throughout our days so as to be found blameless.

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