

**Thank you, again...Alexis Brown
Speaker for today**

Christians...Be Thankful

“And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.” Colossians 3:15

August Birthdays

1 Paige Cree 12 Debbie Hoffman
16 Nick Hoffman. 27 Isaiah Diaz

September Birthdays

6 Melinda McCollum 11 Marie Burruss 15 Marcos Perales
16 Jim Burruss 30 Dortha Gentry 30 Kurt Hoffman

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Website:
indiochurchofchrist.com

Preacher: Vacant

Church of Christ
81-377 Ave 46
Indio, CA 92201
(760) 342-1859

(Address Service Requested)

Indio Informer

Vol. 35 No. 34

August 25, 2024

In Everything Give Thanks

By Mike Johnson

I Thessalonians 5:18 says, *“In everything give thanks...”* This teaching occurs during a series of short admonitions near the end of the book of I Thessalonians. Earlier, Paul told them they needed to *“rejoice always,”* and they were to *“pray without ceasing.”* We might say, *“constant joy and constant prayer should lead to a constant giving of thanks to God.”*

The Bible stresses thanksgiving in many places. Ephesians 5:20 says, *“giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”* In Colossians 4:2, Paul stressed, *“Continue in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving.”* In another passage, Philippians 4:6, he said, *“Be anxious for nothing but in everything in prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.”*

How are we to thank God for whatever happens? The NIV says, *“Give thanks in all circumstances.”* How do we do this? The verse is not teaching us to give thanks specifically for every particular thing, which happens. Instead, the idea is we are to continue to be thankful no matter what the circumstances, and in every situation, we can find things for which to be grateful.

Consider the following situation. A man’s house burns. He does not say, *“I am glad my house burned.”* Instead, he says, *“I continue to be thankful to God even though my house burned.”* Furthermore, he can say, *“Although my house burned, I am thankful I was not in it when it burned, and that it did not cause someone else’s house to catch on fire.”* We remain thankful to God no matter what happens, and in every bad situation, we can see things to be grateful for (also note James 1:2-3, Romans 5:3). Matthew Henry, the well-known scholar, was once robbed by thieves of his money. In his diary he wrote, *“Let me be thankful*

first, because I was never robbed before; second, because although they took my purse, they did not take my life; third, because, although they took my all, it was not much; and fourth, because it was I who was robbed, not I who robbed.”

We need to make sure we are **“thankful in everything.”** The last part of verse 18 says, *“For this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”* We must understand it is God’s Will that we obey these instructions. Are we “thankful in everything?”

Are We Looking for the Right Packaging?

Author Unknown

A young man was getting ready to graduate from college. For many months he had admired a beautiful sports car in a dealer’s showroom, and knowing his father could well afford it, he told him that was all he wanted. As Graduation Day approached, the young man awaited signs that his father had purchased the car.

Finally, on the morning of his graduation, his father called him into his private study. His father told him how proud he was to have such a fine son and told him how much he loved him. He handed his son a beautiful, wrapped gift box. Curious, but somewhat disappointed, the young man opened the box and found a lovely, leather-bound Bible, with the young man’s name embossed in gold. Angrily, he raised his voice to his father and said, “With all your money you give me a Bible?” and stormed out of the house, leaving the Bible.

Many years passed and the young man was very successful in business. He had a beautiful home and wonderful family, but realized his father was very old, and thought perhaps he should go to him. He had not seen him since that graduation day. Before he could make arrangements, he received a telegram telling him his father had passed away and willed all of his possessions to his son. He needed to come home immediately and take care of things. When he arrived at his father’s house, sudden sadness and regret filled his heart. He began to search through his father’s important papers and saw the still new Bible, just as he had left it years ago. With tears, he opened the Bible and began to turn the pages. His

father had carefully underlined a verse, Matthew 7:11, ***“And if ye, being evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your Heavenly father which is in heaven, give to those who ask Him?”*** As he read those words, a car key dropped from the back of the Bible. It had a tag with the dealer’s name, the same dealer who had the sports car he had desired. On the tag was the date of his graduation, and the words...PAID IN FULL.

Gratitude – Be Thankful

By Kevin Cauley

Among the many attitudes discussed in the New Testament is gratitude. It isn’t just a good idea, though; it’s God’s command. Colossians 3:15 says, *“And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.”* Not too many years ago, I had a debate with an atheist. He held to an ethical system called utilitarianism. His philosophy was that if something was useful for getting along in society then you should do it. This is how he rationalized his behavior including saying “Thank you,” to other people. He wasn’t genuinely thankful to others when they did something helpful to him, he was just saying the words because they were useful to him in getting along in society. Such is not the attitude that we are to have toward God’s word. It is true that practicing God’s word will help us get along with others, but that is a blessing that results from believing in God and His word, not the rationale for our practicing it.

Sometimes I wonder if we haven’t adopted this philosophy doing things simply because they are useful instead of doing them to please God regardless of whether they are useful or not. Truly giving thanks is one of these things. Do we say “thank you” to those closest to us? Do we genuinely thank those who help us? Do we recognize the graciousness of others when they do something for our benefit by telling them “Thank you?” How many of us, instead of asking God for one thing or another, spend time in prayer just thanking Him? We are not thankful enough, and we need to be a thankful people. May God help us to have the highest of motives when we say, “thank you,” and not take things for granted.