

Thankfulness

Thankfulness is a common theme throughout the Bible. Much of the book of Psalms is dedicated to thanking and praising God for His goodness. And yet, in our culture today, we see a lack of thankfulness and a great increase in selfishness, complaining, and entitlement.

Christians are commanded to give God thanks

Look up and read the below verses (apply the general questions to your reading)

1 Thessalonians 5:18

Ephesians 5:20

- Who wrote both Ephesians and 1 Thessalonians? _____
- What do you know about the author of both of those books that would definitely add some meaning to what those verses instruct us to do?

- So based on those verses, and the persecution the apostle Paul faced as he served God, what does that teach us about giving God thanks?

- How does the idea of giving thanks, even through trials and hard times, differ from modern thinking on when we should be thankful?

God does give us many blessings to be thankful for!

While we are called to give thanks for all things, including the trials and hard times, God richly blesses His children with things to be thankful for.

Look up and read the below verses (apply the general questions to your reading)

Psalms 107:1

John 3:16

James 1:17

- What are some ways that you have personally seen the goodness of God in your life that you can be thankful for.

- Why does John 3:16 make the list for verses of blessings from God we should be thankful for?

- What does James 1:17 reveal about the cause of all good things in life?

The Bible teaches against complaining and unthankfulness.

While the Bible is very clear that we should be thankful, the Bible is also very clear that the opposite (unthankfulness, selfishness, and entitlement) is also true: unthankfulness is sin and should not be present in the life of a Christian.

Look up and read the below verses (apply the general questions to your reading)

Philippians 2:14

2 Timothy 3:2

- Based on what has already been looked at, why should Christians never complain?

- Why do you think unthankful makes it into that list with all of those other sins?

Thankfulness should be constant in the life of a Christian.

It's clear from the Bible that we need to give God thanks. It's also clear that unthankfulness is sin and should be avoided by a Christian. But finally, thankfulness should be shown to other people in our lives.

Look up and read the below verses (apply the general questions to your reading)

1 Thessalonians 5:18

- Who are some people in your life you could show more thankfulness to?

- What are some things you've taken for granted from others that you should be more thankful for?

- What are some ways you could show your gratitude to others?

- How have you been selfish and unthankful, instead of giving thanks?

- If you had thankfulness as a priority in your life, can you think of some things that you could tell others "thank you" for more often? (parents, teachers, grandparents, pastors, friends, etc.)

God has given us so much to be thankful for! Let's give God thanks, and show it by being thankful to the people in our lives. Don't take it for granted!