

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Psalm 100:1-5**.
- B. With the great commercialization of Christmas it seems that Thanksgiving is being overlooked and has become what I call, "The Forgotten Holiday."
- C. It is sad to see the purchasing and receiving of material goods, to so consume us, that we forget to say "thanks" for the many things we have and enjoy.
- D. We need to learn to be grateful, even in a land of plenty.
- E. Paul knew the value and importance of being grateful, always giving thanks (Eph. 5:20).
always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;

I. I'M GRATEFUL FOR **LIFE ITSELF**.

- A. God is the creator of life. He has life within Himself and gives it to all things (Rom. 8:11).
But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.
- B. The great power of JC is at work 24/7/365. His power holds all things together. He makes the universe run smoothly and w/o error (Heb. 1:3; Col. 1:16-17).
(Col 1:16-17) For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created by Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.
(Heb 1:3) And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high;
- C. And the life JC wants me to have is abundant and full. Not to feel guilty, depressed, or lonely (Jn. 10:10).
"The thief comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy; I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly."

II. I'M GRATEFUL FOR **HEALTH, INTELLIGENCE, AND ABILITY**.

- A. I'm important and valuable in the army of Jesus. He has given me (and you) talents and opportunities to do good. We should be thankful for all that we have in X (Rom. 12:6).
And since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let each exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith;
- B. Are we thankful for how we are made? How great and how kind God is to have made us as we are. We are the height of His creation (Psa. 139:13-16).
For Thou didst form my inward parts; Thou didst weave me in my mother's womb. 14 I will give thanks to Thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Thy works, And my soul knows it very well. 15 My frame was not hidden from Thee, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth. 16 Thine eyes have seen my unformed substance; And in Thy book they were all written, The days that were ordained for me, When as yet there was not one of them.
- C. With the greatness of our creation, the gifts given us, and the knowledge of a divine Being--we can do all things (**Phil. 4:13**).

III. I'M GRATEFUL FOR **CHRIST; HIS D, B & R, AND HIS CHURCH**.

- A. I have been purchased out of the world by something more valuable/precious than gold--the blood of X (1Pet. 1:18-19).
knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, 19 but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.
- B. Paul was so thankful for this great sacrifice he wanted to know of the sufferings X (Phil. 3:10-11).
...that I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being

conformed to His death; [11] in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

- C. I am thankful for that death, because we can know all spiritual blessings (Eph. 1:3).
Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,
- D. Be thankful for the church and all its greatness! Truly it is the glory to follow the sufferings of X (1Pet. 1:10-11).
As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful search and inquiry, **11** seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow.

IV. I'M GRATEFUL THAT I HAVE A FUTURE.

- A. Everyone has a past, some enjoy the present, but only Xians have a future!
- B. With JC, I have a future that's as bright as the morning sun, and as sure as God Himself.
- C. Just look at the promises of the following verses:
 - 1. A crown of life (2Tim. 4:7-8).
I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; **8** in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.
 - 2. A day to inherit eternal life (2Tim. 1:12).
For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.
 - 3. A goal to be attained (Phil. 3:13-14).
Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, **14** I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.
 - 4. A changed body to be raised imperishable (1Cor. 15:50-53).
Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. **51** Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, **52** in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. **53** For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.
- D. When I have a future so bright, so secure, so exciting then I don't need to worry about my past or present.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. You can have Xmas, New Years, 4th of July and all of the rest. Because when we look into the word of God and see all that we have in:
 - 1. Life.
 - 2. Health, intelligence, abilities.
 - 3. The church, spiritual blessings.
 - 4. The future....what can we do except bow our heads and get on our knees and say "thank you."
- B. I agree with a preacher friend of mine who once said that when he gets to heaven for the first 10,000 years all he's going to do is tell God, "thank you, thank you"
- C. With all that we have to be thankful for, don't let Thanksgiving become "The Forgotten Holiday" (see Psalms 100:1-5).
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; for erring-Xians.