



THE GEORGIA CAPITOL DEVOTIONAL - 26 November 2025

Friends,

Thanksgiving Day is an integral competent of the culture and life of the American people. Of course, for Christians, one day a year to give thanksgiving to God for all his blessings is far from satisfactory. Scripture exhorts every Christian to make music in one's heart, "always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father" (Eph 5:19-20).

"Always giving thanks" is a distinctly Christian standard for living. The reason is that the word "thanksgiving" is literally the giving of thanks for God's grace. There is a contrast between the person who does not honor God or give thanks to Him (Rom 1:21), and the person who has experienced the free and sovereign regenerating work of the Holy Spirit. The Bible refers to the latter person as a believer, that is, one who expresses faith in Christ and repentance to God, and lives as one enraptured with a life of gratitude and humility by "always giving thanks" to God. A life of thanksgiving is truly exalting of God, or literally "giving thanks . . . to God, even the Father."

The Christian life is that of thinking and thanking. "To think" in the old Anglo-Saxon language was seen also in thanks; literally, *thoughtfulness is thankfulness*. A life of thanksgiving is always a witness to the saving work of Christ. Thanks to God is given "in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." Believers are only able to approach God boldly because of the redemptive work of Christ on their behalf.

The Lord Jesus Christ is the crowning thought of thanksgiving. Genuine thanksgiving is confession; it is to live with Jesus Christ as Lord of one's life. Living a life "always giving thanks" means being careful how you live, "not as unwise . . . but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil" (Eph 5:15-16). Scripture exhorts us to give thanks "for all things."

The days of our life are filled with dangers and deceptions; therefore, we need to rely upon wisdom, using our time wisely (Eph 5:15-16). The will of

the Lord is for his people to live carefully and cautiously by living consistently with the wisdom of his Word (5:17). As opposed to being "drunk" (which would include any drugs that stupefy), the believer is to "be filled with the Spirit" (5:18; cf. Col 3:16).

Ephesians 5:19-21 indicate four participles — "speaking," "making melody" (music), "giving thanks," and being "subject" (submitting) — that modify the verb "be filled" in verse 18. The first

two participles suggest the importance of Scripture and music to be filled with (or by) the Holy Spirit. A thankful attitude is the third characteristic of being filled, and the final characteristic is submission (obedience and respect) to authorities.

As we let the Word of God dwell richly with us (Acts 13:52; Eph 5:18; Col 3:16), we understand the will of God. The Holy Spirit applies God's truth to our lives, and as we yield ourselves in obedient stewardship, allowing ourselves to be governed by the truth, we experience God's empowerment and enablement. Whatever experiences life may bring, the grace of God compels us to express hearts and minds filled with thanksgiving. As the old hymn teaches: "Count your blessings, name them one by one; Count your blessings, see what God hath done; Count your blessings, name them one by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord hath done."



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Capitol Commission is delivering the teaching of God's Word to our Capitol leaders, their staff, and even more of the Capitol community. Through a resolute pastoral presence, we are seeing legislators turn to Christ and embrace the truth of God's Word. Our boast is not in ourselves but in the power of God through his gospel and Word. There is good news coming from our Capitols!