

The Proper Place of Thanksgiving

CBC BIBLE STUDY

NOVEMBER 15, 2023

Introduction: Summary from last week (John 1:14,16,17)

Key Terms/Definitions:

Grace – Charis (grace, as a gift or blessing brought to man by Jesus Christ, favor, gratitude, thanks, kindness)

Give Thanks – Eucharists (eucharistos) – gratitude, actively, grateful language (to God, as an act of worship), thankfulness. Luke 22, During the institution of the Eucharist Jesus “gave thanks”

The free gift - Charisma – a gift of grace, a free gift, an undeserved favor, grace endowments

Luke 22:17 (John 6:51-57)

Thanksgiving in the N.T.

Communion was given “**with thanks**” (the gift is free but not cheap)

“thanksgiving” does not take a back seat but is a **major** part of the receiving the body and blood of Jesus.

We should always give thanks in everything and at all times!

- I Thes. 5:18
- Phil 4:6

We give thanks to God when we truly believe that we have received from Him

- Mark 11:23; I Jn 5:14

Thanksgiving can demonstrate true faith

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- Luke 17:11-19
- We see thanksgiving, Jesus sees faith

Encyclopedia of the Bible - Gratitude

In the OT the verb “give thanks” the basic meaning of which is “throw” or “cast”

King David appointed certain Levites “to invoke, to thank, and to praise the Lord” (1 Chron 16:4). This practice was continued by Solomon (2 Chron 5:13; 7:6), Hezekiah (31:2), and by the exiles who returned from Babylon (Neh 11:17).

Thanksgiving was prominent in Israel’s worship. Festival processions en route to Zion filled the air “with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving” (Ps 42:4). Their entrance into the Temple was with thanksgiving (95:2; 100:4); the service itself contained melodies of gratitude (147:7). All the tribes ascended to Jerusalem “to give thanks to the name of the Lord” (122:4).

Israel thanked Jehovah because He ever remained faithful to His covenant with His people (100:4). God’s faithfulness was manifested in many ways as He protected the Jewish nation from external foes (7:17).

In the NT thanksgiving to God both for His work (Luke 17:16) and for His person (Luke 2:38) is a major theme. The concept of thanksgiving abounds in Paul’s epistles (Rom 1:8; 7:25; 2 Cor 9:15; Col 1:12; 1 Tim 1:12). The NT writers urged their fellow Christians to be grateful (Eph 5:4; Col 3:15; Heb 13:15; James 1:2, 9; 1 Pet 4:12-14). Among the Gentiles a lack of gratitude was coupled with an absence of the true faith (Rom 1:21).

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Gratitude is pleasing to God (Ps 92:1) because (1) it is commanded (Ps 50:14; Phil 4:6), (2) Christ set the example (Matt 11:25; 26:27; John 6:11; 11:41), and (3) the heavenly host is engaged in it (Rev 4:9; 7:11, 12; 11:16, 17). It appears in psalms (1 Chron 16:7) and ministers were appointed to express it publicly (1 Chron 16:4, 7; 23:30; 2 Chron 31:2).

Gratitude should be offered (1) to God (Ps 50:14), (2) to Christ (1 Tim 1:12), (3) through Christ (Rom 1:8; Col 3:17; Heb 13:15), (4) in the name of Christ (Eph 5:20), (5) in both private (Dan 6:10) and public worship (Ps 35:18), (6) at the remembrance of God's holiness (Ps 30:4; 97:12), (7) before eating (John 6:11; Acts 27:35), (8) upon the completion of great tasks (Neh 12:31, 40), (9) in everything (1 Thess 5:18), and (10) at all times (Eph 1:16; 5:20; 1 Thess 1:2).

Gratitude can be expressed for (1) the goodness and mercy of God (Ps 106:1; 107:1; 136:1-3), (2) the gift of Christ (2 Cor 9:15), (3) Christ's power and reign (Rev 11:17), (4) deliverance from indwelling sin (Rom 7:23-25), (5) the nearness of God's presence (Ps 75:1), (6) our desire to give for God's work (1 Chron 29:6-14), (7) the supply of our physical needs (Rom 14:6, 7; 1 Tim 4:3, 4), (8) victory over death and the grave (1 Cor 15:57), (9) wisdom and might (Dan 2:23), (10) triumph of the Gospel (2 Cor 2:14), (11) the reception of God's Word (1 Thess 2:13), (12) conversion of souls (Rom 6:17), (13) faith (Rom 1:8; 2 Thess 1:3), love (2 Thess 1:3), and zeal (2 Cor 8:16) manifested in others, (14) grace bestowed upon others (1 Cor 1:4; Phil 1:3-5; Col 1:3-6), (15) ministers appointed by God (1 Tim 1:12), (16) all men (1 Tim 2:1), and (17) everything God permits (2 Cor 9:11; Eph 5:20).

Gratitude ought to be accompanied by (1) intercession for others (1 Tim 2:1; 2 Tim 1:3; Philem 4), (2) prayer (Neh 11:17; Phil 4:6; Col 4:2), and (3) praise (Ps 92:1; Heb 13:15).

Believers are exhorted to be grateful (Ps 105:1; Col 3:15). They should (1) resolve to offer (Ps 18:49; 30:12), (2) abound in faith with (Col 2:7), (3) magnify the Lord by (Ps 69:30), (4) enter God's house with (100:4), (5) come before God with (95:2), (6) offer habitually (Dan 6:10), and (7) present sacrifices of (Ps 116:17)

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