

Give Thanks to the Lord

Selected Scriptures

- 1. We Give Thanks Because _____**

The Christian Life ought to be filled with giving thanks to God because He has shown such undeserved kindness to us. Salvation is the foremost kindness that God has shown for which Christians ought to continually be thankful (Rom. 5:8; 1 John 4:9-10). The plan of God for our salvation which He accomplished through the Lord Jesus compels us to look backwards (Rom. 6:17-18) and forwards (1 Cor. 15:56-57) in our thanksgiving. In addition to our salvation, every single blessing, kindness, and deliverance from distress which we experience is another reason to praise the Lord and give Him thanks (cf. Gen. 14:20; 18:10; Ruth 4:14-15).
- 2. We Give Thanks Because _____**

Maintaining a heart of thankfulness in the midst of the trials of life can be a struggle. In our daily toil, it may be difficult to continually remember that God is good (Ps. 86:5; 119:68; 145:7-9; cf. Matt 19:17a) and that He is actively working all things for our good (Rom. 8:28). We should strive to be thankful to the Lord whether we clearly see His hand of blessing (Job 1:1-3) or of discipline (Heb. 12:4ff; cf. Prov. 12:1). And when we are in the midst of difficulties that we do not understand at all (cf. Job. 1:21), we can be thankful that the Lord hears prayers and bears our burdens with us (Ps. 66:20; 68:19; cf. Luke 18:1).
- 3. We Give Thanks Because _____**

Thankfulness is to be a defining mark of the Christian life because God has commanded it of us (1 Thess. 5:18). We can express our thankfulness to God in praise and boasting of Him (Ps. 34:1-4; cf. Jer. 9:23-24). Prayer is another that we can express our thankfulness to God even when uncertainty or concerns abound (Phil 4:6-7). Thankfulness is to be such a characteristic of the Christian that it is to permeate our normal conversations (cf. Eph 5:20; Col. 3:16). Both the mundane and the urgent events of life tend to drive the actions, thinking, and affections of men. Christians must diligently work to maintain a working awareness of who our God is (Ex. 33:13), of what He has done (1 Tim. 1:15), and of what He is doing (Phil 1:6) so that He can direct our steps (cf. Ps. 119:105) and we can give Him praise (Ps. 92:1-4).