

Pastor's Pen November 2007

Eph 5:20 – “Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;”

We all know that we should give thanks, and often, when God has blessed us, we remember to do so. However, always giving thanks when life sours is quite another thing. Our thanksgiving is usually, at best, sporadic and very dependent on circumstances. It seems that ancient Israel was guilty of this on-again-off-again kind of gratitude. Following great blessing, “... believed they his words; they sang his praise. [However] they soon forgot his works ...” (Ps. 106: 12,13) Often, as new adversity hits us, we quickly forget his past goodness to us and rather than still trusting and thanking him in faith, we are immediately fall into thankless murmuring and chaffing against our lot. According to the Bible, when we face difficulties we are to “...by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.” (Php. 4:6)

We will only be a constantly thankful people by deliberately cultivating a praising and thanksgiving habit. King David said, “Seven times a day do I praise thee ...” (Ps 119:164) and “Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray ...” (Ps 55:17) Rather than emotional, occasional and sporadic unplanned praise, why not deliberately plan times of praise? This would be especially helpful when things aren't going well and we very decidedly don't feel like thanking and praising the Lord.

God inhabits the praises of his people. He approvingly notes when he people speak well of him. (Mal. 3:16) Let us sense his approval and presence as we learn to routinely be a thankful and praising people.

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