

Unconditional Thanksgiving

11/22/15

Unconditional thanksgiving commanded

1 Thessalonians 5:16 Be joyful always;

¹⁷ pray continually;

¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Examples of others who chose unconditional thanksgiving

Thankful when:

1. church is overcrowded and m_____

Acts 2:40 With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation."

⁴¹ Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

2. g_____ things happen to other people

Acts 3:2 Now a man crippled from birth was being carried to the temple gate...

⁶ Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk."

⁷ Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong.

⁸ He jumped to his feet and began to walk...

4:3 They seized Peter and John...

²¹ After further threats they let them go. They could not decide how to punish them, because all the people were praising God for what had happened.

²² For the man who was miraculously healed was over forty years old.

3. treated b_____

Acts 5:40 ...They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.

⁴¹ The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name.

4. g_____

2 Corinthians 8:1 And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches.

² Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity.

5. I _____

2 Timothy 1:3 I thank God, whom I serve, as my forefathers did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers.

⁴ Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy.

6. part of a family

Philippians 1:3 I thank my God every time I remember you.

⁴ In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy

⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now,

7. facing the possibility of

Philippians 1:18b Yes, and I will continue to rejoice,

¹⁹ for I know that through your prayers and the help given by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance.

²⁰ I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.

²¹ For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

8. others

²² If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know!

²³ I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far;

²⁴ but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.

Truth that changes our perspective and enables unconditional thanksgiving

1. Painful conditions are not

1 Peter 3:13 Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good?

¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed

¹⁵ But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

¹⁷ It is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

¹⁸ For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit...

4:1 Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude,...

¹² Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you.

¹³ But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.

¹⁴ If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

¹⁵ If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler.

¹⁶ However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name...

¹⁹ So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

2. God works for the g of those who love him

Romans 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

²⁹ For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

³⁰ And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

³¹ What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?

3. Suffering produces g

Romans 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.

³ Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance;

⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope.

⁵ And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

4. Trials have f value

1 Peter 1:7 These have come so that your faith--of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire--may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy,

⁹ for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.