

## Grace in Thanksgiving

### Introduction and Review

- **Pride impedes** a relationship with God because God opposes the proud (Jas. 4:6a-b).
- **Humility enriches** a relationship with God because God gives more grace to the humble (Jas. 4:6c-10).
- **Pride impedes** a relationship with people because it leads to jealousy, selfishness, fights, quarrels, etc. (Jas. 3:14-4:4).
- **Humility enriches** a relationship with people because a believer can willingly accept God's functional & submissive order in life – church, family, government & employment (1Pe. 2:13-5:9).
- By grace God gives the believer victory over Satan, pride & every other sin in this battle for humility (**1Pe. 5:12**)!

### I. Grace in Thanksgiving for Gospel Privileges

#### A. Thanksgiving must come from the heart (Col. 3:16)

*Grace (χάρις) is sometimes translated “thanks”, “thankfulness” or “thanksgiving”. The heart is defined biblically as the inward center of a person that controls thinking, will & emotions. The heart is affected & persuaded by information – truth or error (Rom. 6:17). The word & Spirit of God in the heart produce thankfulness (Col. 3:16).*

#### B. Thanksgiving includes privileges to serve (1Tim. 1:12)

*Grace enables a believer to remember their past sins without ungodly guilt & shame – **death of Christ removes the guilt & His acceptance removes shame**. Grace enables the believer to be thankful for gospel ministry in spite of past sins. Grace enables the believer to serve Christ with a clear conscience in spite of past sins (2Tim. 1:3).*

**ILL:** I did not earn or merit the privileges of teaching, preaching & pastoring in ministry. These privileges are not based on my natural accomplishments or successes in life. It's all of grace in spite of my failures & sins, therefore I am thankful!

**APPL:** The same is true of you regardless of – you did not earn or merit it. Any gospel ministry or service that you render for Christ is all of grace in spite of your sin – THANKFULNESS!!!

### II. Grace in Thanksgiving for Gospel Blessings

- A. Thanksgiving for deliverance (Rom. 6:17; 7:25; 1Co. 15:57)  
*Deliverance from slavery to sin & slavery to the flesh is a great blessing of salvation (Rom. 6:17; 7:25). Another great blessing is deliverance from the fear & awful consequences of death (1Co. 15:57). These blessings were not merited – thanksgiving!*
- B. Thanksgiving for provisions (1Co. 10:30; 2Co. 9:15; 8:16)  
*Believers should be thankful for food (1Co. 10:30). Believers should also be thankful for financial provisions (2Co. 9:15). Believers should be thankful for other people to assist in ministry (2Co. 8:16). None of these provisions are merited – thanksgiving!*
- C. Thanksgiving for success in evangelism (2Co. 2:14)  
*Grace enables the believer to have love for God & people – believers & unbelievers. God gives the desire & power for evangelism and He controls the outcome (v. 16) – thanksgiving!*

**ILL:** I have not lived 61 years in good health because I earned it or merited it. I did many unwise things to endanger my health. I am fully aware that my health, protection, deliverance, provisions & any success in ministry is all of grace – totally unmerited.

**APPL:** The same is true of you regardless of your age, condition of your health, financial & family status or your effectiveness in evangelism – you did not earn it. All of these gospel blessings are of grace in spite of your failures & sin – THANKFULNESS!!!

## CONCLUSION

So then my beloved brothers & sisters in Christ, you see how grace then makes you thankful & stirs up thanksgiving. Grace shines the light of God in our lives & enables the believer to see clearly that God meets all of our needs in spite of our sins; protects & delivers us in spite of our sins; assigns gospel ministry & even gives us a measure of success in spite of our sins. Therefore by grace we offer praise & thanksgiving – the fruit of our lips; we say, “I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart”; “I will thank you in the great congregation”; “I will thank you forever”; “Give thanks to the Lord with the lyre”; “I will bless the Lord at all times...

And if you are not a Christian, you should be thankful too – that God is patient with you; He provides for, protects & keeps you; He has made a way for you to be forgiven for your sins & saved forever. He has given Jesus as the way, truth & life... But you must believe in Jesus...

SUBJECT: [Grace in Thanksgiving](#)

TEXT: [1 Corinthians 15:57](#)

LOCATION: [Trinity Community Church](#)

DATE: [July 15, 2012](#)

OCASSION: [Sunday Morning Worship Svc](#)

SERMON INDEX NUMBER: [1003](#)

FILE LOCATION: [Computer Sermons 3Q12](#)

[Prepared by Willie D. Woodmore](#)