

Be Ye Thankful

In the Colossians study (www.rightdivision.com/html/audio_colossians_study.html), we saw that the Apostle Paul was expressing that we be thankful for everything the God the Father has done for us in His son Christ Jesus. We often take that for granted and forget that we should be thankful.

What is being thankful mean? Well, if we look it up in the dictionary, the definition is:

thank·ful (thāngk'fəl)

adj.

- Aware and appreciative of a benefit; grateful.
- Expressive of gratitude: a thankful smile.

thank'ful·ly adv., thank'ful·ness n.

thank

tr.v. thanked, thank·ing, thanks

- To express gratitude to; give thanks to: He thanked her for the gift.
- To hold responsible; credit: We can thank the parade for this traffic jam.

The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition
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Noah Webster's 1828 American Dictionary contains the greatest number of Biblical definitions given in any reference volume. Webster considered "education useless without the Bible". Noah Webster believed that the Bible and Christianity played important roles in the lives of a free people and its government. "In my view, the Christian religion is the most important and one of the first things in which all children, under a free government, ought to be instructed.... No truth is more evident to my mind than that the Christian religion must be the basis of any government intended to secure the rights and privileges of a free people...."

If we look "thankful" up in Noah Webster's 1828 Dictionary, we find:

thankful

- THANK'FUL, a. Grateful; impressed with a sense of kindness received, and ready to acknowledge it. The Lord's supper is to be celebrated with a thankful remembrance of his sufferings and death.

Be thankful to him, and bless his name. Ps.100.

thankfully

- THANK'FULLY, adv. With a grateful sense of favor or kindness received.

If you have liv'd, take thankfully the past'.

thankfulness

THANK'FULNESS, n. Expression of gratitude; acknowledgment of a favor.

- Gratitude; a lively sense of good received.

The celebration of these holy mysteries being ended, retire with all thankfulness of heart for having been admitted to that heavenly feast.

Be Ye Thankful

We have much to be thankful for in the Mystery. It's in this body of truth that we discover what God has done (past tense) for us in His son, Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6 (KJV)

6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

Thanksgiving is such an important part of our prayer life... as it says in Col. 1:12...

12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

The actual translation of this verse says "saints"... but we emphasize here with this translation that we are members of the body of Christ, who have been raised and seated with Christ in the heavenlies far above.

If you look at the translation in verse 12 where it says "saints in light", you might ask yourself, where are these saints? Where do they reside? These saints are in light where Christ sits far above all. This means God has made us to sit where his Son is, which is the holiest of all places.

Paul tells about this in Ephesians 1:17-18; 2:19

Ephesians 1:17-18 (KJV)

17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

Ephesians 2:19 (KJV)

19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

In verse 1:18 the meaning behind the phrase "in the saints" is a place for the holy of holies. The same goes for Eph. 2:19 where it says fellow citizens, with the saints. That phrase "with the saints" means the holiest place of all.

We gain an understanding of this in the worship that was followed in the law where there was a pattern was built in the tabernacle that was a shadow of the actual holy of holies. We see this in Hebrews 9:1-9

Hebrews 9:1-9 (KJV)

1 Then verily the first covenant had also ordinances of divine service, and a worldly sanctuary.

2 For there was a tabernacle made; the first, wherein was the candlestick, and the table, and the shewbread; which is called the sanctuary.

3 And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all;

4 Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant;

5 And over it the cherubims of glory shadowing the mercyseat; of which we cannot now speak particularly.

6 Now when these things were thus ordained, the priests went always into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the service of God.

7 But into the second went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people:

8 The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing:

The wording in verse 8 "the holiest of all" is the same Greek wording that was used in Colossians 1:12 and Ephesians 1:18; 2:19. So in Ephesians 2:19 we see that we are placed in the holiest of all places? How can this be? God did it all! We see this in Ephesians 2:5-6...

Be Ye Thankful

Ephesians 2:5-6 (KJV)

- 5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)
6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

Paul tells us this in Ephesians 1:9-10...

Ephesians 1:9-10 (KJV)

- 9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:
10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth, even in him:

That is the purpose of the body of Christ... as we see in Eph. 2:14-19

Ephesians 2:14-20 (KJV)

- 14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;
15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;
16 And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:
17 And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.
18 For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.
19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;
20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

Verse 19 indicates we are fellowcitizens in the holy of holies... which is where God is making himself a habitation in the heavenlies far above. We read about this further in Eph. 4:16...

Ephesians 4:16 (KJV)

- 16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

There is this building that is going on with His body... as we read in Eph. 2:20-22...

Ephesians 2:20-22 (KJV)

- 20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;
21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:
22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

Paul is talking about a place, called the holy of holies, where the body of Christ resides and we are sitting there with him therefore when you go back and read Col. 1:12 you start to understand that we have a unique calling, in a unique location, with a unique position and that is what God has done for you. Notice in Col. 1:13

- 13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

Now, where is the kingdom of his dear Son? Where has he been raised and seated? In the heavenlies far above, this is where we sit with him!

Be Ye Thankful

We have so much to be thankful for! Paul understood this and if you look at all the scriptures where he expressed “thanks, thankful, thanksgiving” you will see he understood this truth.

Colossians 3:15 (KJV)

15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

Philippians 4:6 (KJV)

6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

Colossians 2:7 (KJV)

7 Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

Colossians 4:2 (KJV)

2 Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;

1 Timothy 4:3-4 (KJV)

3 Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.

4 For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving:

Ephesians 1:15-16 (KJV)

15 Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints,

16 Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;

Ephesians 5:3-4 (KJV)

3 But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;

4 Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.

Ephesians 5:19-20 (KJV)

19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

Colossians 1:3-4 (KJV)

3 We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,

4 Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints,

Colossians 1:12-14 (KJV)

12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

Colossians 3:17 (KJV)

17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

1 Timothy 2:1-4 (KJV)

2 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;

Be Ye Thankful

- 2 For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.
- 3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;
- 4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

In 1 Timothy, 2:1-4, we are told that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks should be made for all men especially for kings, and all that are in authority. Why? We find out in verse 4. God desire is that all men would be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth.

John 14:6 (KJV)

- 6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Noah Webster knew this. Noah Webster believed that the Bible and Christianity played important roles in the lives of a free people and its government. "In my view, the Christian religion is the most important and one of the first things in which all children, under a free government, ought to be instructed.... No truth is more evident to my mind than that the Christian religion must be the basis of any government intended to secure the rights and privileges of a free people...."

November 11, 2007 is Veterans Day here in America. We have so much to be thankful for to those who served our country and protected the freedoms that Noah Webster was talking about. Not only Noah, but God as we see in 1 Timothy 2:1-4!

Thank God for Christ! And thank God for the veterans that protected the freedoms we have here in America... the freedom to read the scriptures, and study them so we are approved unto God.

Be Ye Thankful

2007 Veterans Day Message From Acting Secretary Gordon Mansfield



Acting VA Secretary
Gordon H. Mansfield

On this Veterans Day 2007, we come together as a Nation to thank our veterans for their service and to let them know that their service and sacrifices will never be taken for granted.

Americans are blessed to live in a Nation of democracy and freedom. For these blessings we thank our veterans. Here and in communities across this great country, we honor veterans for protecting and securing democracy and freedom throughout our history.

Our veterans are everyday men and women we know as friends, neighbors, relatives, and colleagues who have served our Nation in extraordinary ways. They have preserved and strengthened our country and made sacrifices beyond duty's call. Even as we honor them this Veterans Day, their successors are courageously defending our freedoms at home and abroad. Veterans and their families are truly among our finest citizens.

At the Department of Veterans Affairs, we are proud to fulfill the solemn pledge of President Abraham Lincoln who, during his second inaugural address on March 4, 1865, set forth our obligation to care for those injured in body and spirit in their defense of our Nation and for the families of those who made the ultimate sacrifice. The VA and the over quarter million men and women serving in it give daily endorsement of President Lincoln's commitment, and do so in a spirit of compassion, respect, sensitivity and gratitude. Let us today, therefore, remember Lincoln's charge to us:



“With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan – to do all which may achieve and cherish a just, and lasting peace, among ourselves, and with all nations.”

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gordon H. Mansfield".

Gordon H. Mansfield
Acting