

Rom. 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.

1 Thess. 5:18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Genuine "thanksgiving" is the demonstration of spiritual maturity as a believer realizes the veracity of Rom. 8:28, in conjunction with the command of 1 Thess. 5:18:

I. THE ACCOUNTING OF EXPERIENCES

Rom. 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.

A. Calculating the Events of our Life – "And we know that all things ..."

Mt. 12:36 But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.

Luke 16:2 And he called him, and said unto him, How is it that I hear this of thee? give an account of thy stewardship; for thou mayest be no longer steward.

Rom. 14:12 So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

1 Pet. 4:5 Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead.

- B. Comprehending the Expectations of the Lord "...work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose."
- Eccl. 3:1 To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:
- 2 Tim. 1:9 Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

II. THE ACCEPTANCE OF EVERYTHING

1 Thess. 5:18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

A. The Planned Totality of Experiences – "In every thing..."

Jer. 29:11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

B. The Personal Trust in the Eventuality – "...for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

Phil. 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

III. THE APPRECIATION EXPRESSED

1 Thess. 5:18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

A. The Action Implemented – "...give thanks..."

B. The Appreciation Indicated – "...the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

Conclusion

Eph. 5:18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

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;

Col. 3:17 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.