

## **THANKSGIVING 2023**

### <u>2 Cor. 4:13-18</u> "Giving Thanks for Grace So Amazing"

<u>2 Cor. 4:13</u> We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak;

- <u>14</u> Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present *us* with you.
- <u>15</u> For all things *are* for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God.
- 16 For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man
- perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.
- <u>17</u> For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory;
- <u>18</u> While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen *are* temporal; but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.

This weekend we enter the wonderful week of Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving Day is a national holiday in the United States starting in 1789.

In 1789, George Washington proclaimed "a day of public thanksgiving and thanks" to thank God for his protection and as the source of all that is good. In his proclamation, he wrote,

Now therefore I do recommend and assign Thursday the 26<sup>th</sup> day of November next to be devoted by the People of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be — That we may then all unite in rendering unto him our sincere and humble thanks — for his kind care and protection of the People of this Country previous to their becoming a Nation...

https://www.christianity.com/wiki/holidays/meaning-of-thanksgiving.html

<u>The dictionary explanation of Thanksgiving</u>: 1. the act of giving thanks; grateful acknowledgment of benefits or favors, especially to God.

2. an expression of thanks, especially to God. https://www.dictionary.com/browse/Thanksgiving

<u>The Hebrew word for Thanksgiving</u>: Original Word: תּוֹדָה **Transliteration**: todah Definition: thanksgiving

https://biblehub.com/hebrew/8426.htm

<u>The Greek word for Thanksgiving</u>: Original Word: εὐχαριστία Transliteration: eucharistia Definition: thankfulness, giving of thanks Usage: thankfulness, gratitude; giving of thanks, thanksgiving.

euxaristía (euxáristos, "thankful for God's grace") – properly, thankfulness (thanksgiving) – literally, "the giving of thanks for God's grace."

https://biblehub.com/greek/2169.htm

Thanksgiving is not "thanks-saying." In order to "give thanks," a person must possess "thanks." A person who possesses "thanks" must have a basis to do so. Possession of "thanks" is a recognition of reception of the goodness and grace of God toward someone, personally. How to discern such reception requires a relationship with the Creator and His Word.

This passage teaches us the value of God's grace from God's perspective. Believers should know and implement God's purpose for giving thanks.

### I. THE POSSESSION OF GRATITUDE, 2 Cor. 4:13-14

A. A Triumphant Present Experience of Christ, 4:13

<u>2 Cor. 4:13</u> We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak;

The reason a believer can offer thanksgiving to God is because of God's so amazing grace experienced in salvation – "…having the same spirit of faith…"

The word "having" exhibits "possession." Grace possessed is the catalyst for "thanks" to "give."

# B. A Tremendous Prospective Experience of Christ, 4:14

<u>2 Cor. 4:14</u> Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall **present** *us* with you.

Believers have knowledge (oida) of the certainty of the resurrection!

### II. THE PROCESSION OF GRACE, 2 Cor. 4:15

A. The Reception of Grace, 2 Cor. 4:15a

<u>2 Cor. 4:15a</u> "For all things *are* for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving..."

Believers possess spiritual blessings, indicated by "For all things are for your sakes..."

Such a possession is for the procession of grace to others: "...that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving..." B. The Redounding of Grace, <u>2 Cor. 4:15b</u> "…redound to the glory of God."

REDOUND, verb intransitive [Latin redundo; red, re, and undo, to rise or swell, as waves.]
1. To be sent, rolled or driven back.
2. To conduce in the consequence; to contribute; to result.
3. To proceed in the consequence or effect; to result.

https://webstersdictionary1828.com/Dictionary/redound

The "redounding" is an overflowing, abounding display of the believers' gratitude for God's grace being so amazing! **Original Word:** περισσεύω **Transliteration:** perisseuó **Definition:** to be over and above, to abound **Usage:** (a) intrans: I exceed the ordinary (the necessary), abound, overflow; am left over, (b) trans: I cause to abound. (redound)

*perisseúō* (from *perí*, "all-around" which indicates abundance or surplus) – **properly, exceed, go beyond the expected measure, i.e. above and beyond** ("more than . . . "); "what goes further (more), *surpasses*" (J. Thayer). <u>https://biblehub.com/greek/4052.htm</u>



Possessing God's gift of grace produces expression for His glory.

<u>Psa. 50:22</u> Now consider this, ye that forget God, lest I tear *you* in pieces, and *there be* none to deliver. <u>23</u> Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me: and to him that ordereth *his* conversation *aright* will I shew the salvation of God.

Such possession of God's grace is a testimony to others, but also effective within the believer who properly considers the prospective aspect of God's glory.

### III. THE PROSPECTIVE OF GLORY, 2 Cor. 4:16-18

A. The Abundant Grace, 4:16

- Progress Outwardly Ravished Daily 4:16a "For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish..."
- The believer does not quit "running the race of life," ("faint not,") even though the natural man deteriorates daily.

2. Progress Inwardly Renewed Daily – 4:16b "…yet the inward *man* is renewed day by day."

- Knowing of God's grace so amazing fuels the fire of faith within the believer, and the spirit is "renewed day by day."
  - B. The Absolute Glory, 4:17-18
    - 1. Our Present Problems, 4:17a-b

a. They are Flimsy Things After All, 4:17a "For our light affliction..." When life is properly compared to eternity, the present difficulties seem so flimsy as "light affliction."

> b. They are Fleeting Things After All, 4:17b "...which is but for a moment..."

Compared to eternity, life's challenges are "but for a moment." 2. Our Promised Prize, 4:17c-d

a. An Exceeding Weight of Glory, 4:17c"...worketh for us a far more exceeding..."

God's grace enables believers to consider that life's challenges, understood properly, "worketh for us a far more exceeding" prize in glory, for God's glory! b. An Eternal Weight of Glory, 4:17c "...and eternal weight of glory;"

The prize in heaven is not a temporary expression of joy, but an "eternal weight of glory."

3. Our Proper Perspective, 4:18

a. The Passing Nature of the Visible, 4:18a
 "While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal..."

God's grace is effectual to believers who focus upon the passing temporality in life.

> b. The Permanent Nature of the Invisible, 4:18b "…but the things which are not seen are eternal."

God's grace focuses upon eternal values.

Summary

Those who fail to be thankful to God and glorify Him are in danger of creating greater spiritual blindness in their hearts.

<u>Rom. 1:20</u> For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: <u>21</u> Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, **neither were thankful**; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. "When gratitude dies on the altar of a man's heart, that man is well-nigh hopeless." <u>Bob Jones, Sr.</u> <u>https://www.azquotes.com/quote/941241</u>

Side by side with honoring God is giving him thanks.

<u>Psa. 50:22</u> Now consider this, ye that forget God, lest I tear *you* in pieces, and *there be* none to deliver. <u>23</u> Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me: and to him that ordereth *his* conversation *aright* will I shew the salvation of God.

#### Conclusion

Hudson Taylor, who endured great hardships and tragedies in his lifelong mission work in China, said when he was old, "I never made a sacrifice." What he meant was that along the path of self-denying service you experience so much joyful gratitude for God's sustaining grace that, whatever you forsake to buy that pearl, it is as if there were no sacrifice at all. Therefore, a life that gives glory to God for his grace and a life of deepest gladness are always the same life. And what makes them one is gratitude.

https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/grace-gratitude-and-the-glory-of-god

<u>Psa. 100:1</u> Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. <u>2</u> Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.

<u>3</u> Know ye that the LORD he *is* God: *it is* he *that* hath made us, and not we ourselves; *we are* his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

<u>4</u> Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.

<u>5</u> For the LORD *is* good; his mercy *is* everlasting; and his truth *endureth* to all generations.