

# GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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## Being Thankful

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**W**hen I get up I'm thankful for a brand new day. When I get dressed I'm thankful I can run and play. When I sit down to eat, I'm thankful for my food. But most of all I'm thankful for my God who is so good.

The above words are sung by our children at an early age. In a moment, they convey an important Biblical principle to a child on his or her level. A young person learns that God deserves to be thanked. Those surrounding the throne not only acknowledge God's wisdom, power and might; but they offer up to him “*thanksgiving*” (*Revelation 7:12*). The goodness of God is highlighted in Jesus having mercy on the ten lepers and healing them. One cleansed leper, a Samaritan returns to the feet of Jesus “*giving Him thanks*” (*Luke 17:14*). Jesus asked “*where are the nine*” (*Luke 17:17*). God not only deserves to be thanked, but recognizes when it is missing. Our children are learning early not to ignore this important principle in life as they connect God with their new day, food, clothing and the opportunity to run and play.

As we grow up with new experiences, the attitude of being thankful should expand. While being thankful for our daily food and the necessities of life should never cease (*I Timothy 4:1*), recognizing more good things around us should increase. Paul was thankful for a government functioning as God had ordained when he addressed governor Felix.

“*Seeing that by thee we enjoy much peace, and that by thy providence evils are corrected for this nation, we accept it in all ways and in all places, most excellent Felix, with all thankfulness*” (*Acts 24:2-3*). It is not a matter of which political party has the reigns of power, but that they pull in the direction of keeping order, being “*an avenger for wrath to him that doeth evil*” (*Romans 13:4*).

Brethren assisting us with their resources should always cause us to be thankful. Paul new the generous giving of the Corinthian brethren “*not only filleth up the measure of the wants of the saints, but aboundeth also with many thanksgivings unto God*” (*2 Corinthians 9:12*). Paul was thankful to God for God through the Gospel and formed the character and fueled the action of love

between fellow saints. Paul was thankful in his prayers to God for the “*faith*” and “*love*” showed to all the saints” (*Colossians 1:3-4, Ephesians 1:15*). Paul was thankful to God for brethren in Thessalonica in their “*work of faith and labor of love and patience of hope*. . . (*I Thessalonians 1:3*). God gives us faith hope and the pattern of true love. Our hearts should be filled with thanksgiving for our brethren in the Lord, for His way creates the greatest people on earth in any generation.

Every time we partake of the Lord's supper we “*give thanks*” remembering the great sacrifice of Jesus on the cross unto the remission of our sins before God (*Matthew 26:26-28; I Corinthians 10:16*).

Yes, our reasons for being thankful should expand as we mature from childhood. In fact maturity in the Lord should cause us to find reasons for giving thanks “*in everything*” (*I Thessalonians 5:18*). Thanksgiving needs to extend beyond childhood and a holiday. It should be offered everyday.