**The Stewardship of Thanksgiving**

**The Scandal of Ungratefulness[[1]](#footnote-1)**

1 Thessalonians 5:18 - in everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.

Charles Haddon Spurgeon – Thanksgiving and the motives for it.

Five blessings from God for which we should be thankful:

**I. Direction in Times of Wandering – vv. 1-7.**

A. We were redeemed from the hand of the adversary – v. 2

Ephesians 2:1-2 - And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.

Ephesians 2:3 - Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

B. We were like people wandering the wilderness – v. 4

Psalm 107:4 - they did not find a way to an inhabited city.

Proverbs 13:15 - ...the way of transgressors is hard.

Proverbs 28:13 - He that covers his sins shall not prosper...

C. God was willing to deliver us when we were wandering.

Psalm 107:6 – He delivered them out of their distresses.

D. He leads us by a straight way.

Psalm 107:7 - He led them also by a straight way, To go to an inhabited city.

John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

Psalm 107:2 – Let the redeemed of the earth say so...

**II. Satisfaction in Times of Thirst.**

A. Life without God is like great hunger or tremendous thirst – v. 9

B. God stands ready to fill your soul.

v. 9 – He has satisfied the thirsty soul...

v. 9 – The hungry soul He has filled...

My soul is restless until it finds its rest in thee, O God.

C. This emphasis is an important aspect of the gospel.

Matthew 11:28-30 - Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

v. 1, 8, 15, 21, 31 – For His lovingkindness is everlasting.

D. One of the evidences of this kind of thankfulness is growing contentment.

Philippians 4:11-12 - Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need.

1 Timothy 6:6 - But godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment.

1 Timothy 6:8 - If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content.

Hebrews 13:5 - Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, “I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you,”

Proverbs 21:9 - It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman in a wide house.

**III. Humility in Times of Rebellion – vv. 15-20**

A. Some of us were foolish in our rebellion – v. 17.

B. Some of us despised the very nourishment God was trying to provide – v. 18.

**IV. Peace in Times of Storm.**

A. Life without God is like being in a storm at sea.

Psalm 107:26-27 - They rose up to the heavens, they went down to the depths; Their soul melted away in their misery. They reeled and staggered like a drunken man, And were at their wits’ end.

Psalm 107:28-30 - Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, And He brought them out of their distresses. He caused the storm to be still, So that the waves of the sea were hushed. Then they were glad because they were quiet, So He guided them to their desired haven.

B. God stands ready to give peace in the storm.

**V. Protection in Times of Opposition.**

A. Some people in this world are “diminished and bowed down” through “oppression, misery, and sorrow”.

Psalm 107:41-42 – But He sets the needy securely on high away from affliction, And makes his families like a flock. The upright see it and are glad; But all unrighteousness shuts its mouth.

B. God sets the needy securely on high.

1. Steve Viars. Faith Baptist Church [↑](#footnote-ref-1)