

SPIRITUAL REFLECTIONS

[Rev. Gene Henderson & edits by Pastor Pier]

Be cheerful no matter what; pray all the time; thank God no matter what happens. This is the way God wants you who belong to Christ Jesus to live. (1 Thessalonians 5:17-19 Message)

Thanksgiving Week in America, instituted in memory of the Pilgrims (people in search of religious freedom) and their Native American hosts who shared a harvest meal together. An interlude of appreciation during a difficult time – worthy of a national holiday. In retrospect, have there been any Thanksgivings that did not occur during a difficult time? For someone? Somewhere? Perhaps for you? This year? Or another year still recent in memory? **Be cheerful no matter what** ... Is that even possible? Is it even *right*? Aren't there times when we should *not* be cheerful, when being cheerful is being blind, hiding one's head in the sand? Not connecting with reality?

How can we be cheerful when _____ (you fill in the blank)?

We get the **pray all the time** part – that makes sense. But **thank God no matter what happens**? Why bother to pray for God's help if we're already thankful for what has happened? Sounds like an oxymoron. Which it is. Or a breakdown of simple logic. Which it also is. But then, if we step back and take an honest look at our world, the whole thing is an oxymoron (go ahead, say it). Maybe because "simple logic" can't explain the mysteries and conundrums of life on Planet Earth. In other words, a person does not have to believe the Bible or be religious to see the confusion, frustration and utter breakdown of human life and relationships.

So how do we do this? How can we be cheerful no matter what or be thankful no matter what? It means we'd better get on with it. Strip down, start running—and never quit! **Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we're in. Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed—that exhilarating finish with God—he could put up with anything along the way: Cross, shame, whatever. And now he's there, in the place of honor, right alongside God. When you find yourselves flagging in your faith, go over that story again, item by item, that long litany of hostility he plowed through. That will shoot adrenaline into your souls!** (Hebrews 12:2-3 Message)

Happy Thanksgiving! (No matter what.) *own heart*". **God never promised to use perfection, only consecration and submission.**

Happy Thanksgiving!

November 24th, 2024



"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so they can have life. I want them to have it in the fullest possible way."

SERVICES

Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30 AM
Unity in Prayer & Youth: 6:00 – 7:00 PM
Wednesday – Bible Study: 7:00 PM; Kid's Club
Prayer ½ hour before services

STRESS RELIEF – THANKSGIVING

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Wednesday Bible Study – we continue our study of the Rapture of the church.

Flagging Class – Wednesdays, at 6:00 PM prior to our Bible study. Special thanks to all the participants of this praise ministry.

Thanksgiving Dinner – please plan to join us for a fellowship dinner following our morning service. We will join together to thank God for all He has given us.

Ladies Christmas Party – Friday, December 6th at 6:00 P.M. here at the church. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the foyer so we can plan. For any questions, please see Caroline Zeyak.

Christmas Program Rehearsal – Saturday, December 14th at 11:00 A.M. here at the church. Please be on time!

Christmas Program – Sunday, December 15th at 10:30 A.M. Let's invite family and friends to enjoy what the Lord will do.

Kid's Club Christmas Party – Wednesday, December 18th at 7:00 P.M.

Operation Christmas Child – boxes are due the 24th of November, next Sunday.

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TEXT: Psalm 100; Philippians 4:8

The _____ people get, the _____ thankful they become, the less _____ of God they become, and the more they want.

I. THE _____ OF OUR THANKSGIVING

A. The 100th Psalm was written for the _____ of Israel.

B. I think also that there is a real _____ in this season of _____ our thanksgiving on the basis of how much we _____.

We let these things _____ whether we are or aren't _____.

The _____ of our thanksgiving is the Lord and His _____. _____ that we got here with the help of God, and that He is the _____ of every blessing we have.

II. FIVE THANKSGIVING _____

A. The 1st command – _____. Verse 1

It means to "**shout with the _____ of a trumpet _____**".

B. The 2nd command is _____. Verse 2a; Matthew 25:45

C. The 3rd command is _____. Verse 2b

D. The 4th command is, _____ God. Verse 3

God is your _____, and we are _____ in His image.

E. The 5th command is this, be _____. Verses 4-5; Psalm 103:10