
HOW TO HAVE A THANKFUL LIFE

Psalm 100:4

INTRODUCTION

Matthew Henry, the famous Bible expositor, was once accosted by thieves and robbed. He wrote these words in his diary: "Let me be thankful, first, because I was never robbed before; second, because, although they took my money, they did not take my life; third, because, although they took my all, it was not much; and fourth, because it was I who was robbed, not I who robbed."

If we look hard enough, there's always something for which to be thankful!

I. WHAT DOES THE WORD "THANKFUL" MEAN?

- A. "Aware and appreciative of a _____; grateful."
--American Heritage Dictionary
- B. "For a _____, the act of being thankful focuses _____ and foremost on _____ – I Chronicles 16:8; Colossians 1:3
1. For _____ He is – Psalm 18:3
 - a. He is _____-existent – Genesis 1:1; John 1:1,2
 - b. He is our _____ – Genesis 1:27; Colossians 1:16-19
 - c. He is our _____ – Psalm 19:14; 78:35
 - God the Father _____ the plan of salvation – John 3:16; II Corinthians 5:21
 - God the Son _____ the plan of salvation – John 10:11; Romans 3:24-26
 - God the Holy Spirit _____ the plan of salvation – John 16:7-11; Acts 1:8
 2. For _____ He does –
 - a. He _____ us – John 3:16; Romans 5:8
 - b. He _____ – Psalm 103:1-3; 130:4
 - c. He answers our _____ – Proverbs 15:8, 29; I Peter 3:12

II. WHAT DOES GOD SAY ABOUT A THANKFUL LIFE?

- A. An _____ life displeases God – Romans 1:18-25
- Two issues mark decadent people:
 1. An unwillingness to acknowledge and honor _____ as the _____!
 2. A resistance to _____ gratitude!
- B. A thankful life _____ God – Luke 17:11-19
- C. A thankful life offers _____ to God – Psalm 69:30; 147:7
- D. A thankful life is grateful in _____ – Philippians 4:6; Colossians 4:2
- E. A thankful life _____ gratitude for _____ aspect of life – I Thessalonians 5:18
- Even life's _____, struggles and testings should _____ God's people to be thankful – Acts 5:41; James 1:2,3; I Peter 1:6-9
 - A thankful life should be _____ – Ephesians 5:20

III. WHAT STEPS CAN WE TAKE TO PURSUE AND PRACTICE A THANKFUL LIFE?

- A. Remember, _____ things work together for _____ – Romans 8:28
- B. Focus your _____ – Philippians 4:5-9

"O, Lord, that lends me life, Lend me a heart replete with thankfulness."

--William Shakespeare