

# ***Personal/ Small Group Sermon Study***

## **The Christian Life is a Thankful Life**

Week of November 22, 2020 A.D.

Let's talk about that in this lesson.

### **Read Romans 1:7-8**

1. When used in the New Testament, the word "saint" refers to any and every person who has become a child of God through faith in Christ. Are you a "saint"? If not, why not? If so, how and when did you become a saint? What thoughts, attitudes and/or emotions are aroused within your spirit when you reflect on the reality that you are a "saint" and a "child of God"? Please explain your answers.
2. How often do you thank God that you are a saint and that you are one of His children? Do you ever thank God for: (a) your church family; (b) your small group family; and, (c) your personal biological family? If so, what positive emotional and spiritual benefit do you receive from those prayers? If you do not pray for those people daily, please explain why not?
3. Make a list of the people and the blessings for which you can and should express thanksgiving to God. Now audibly name each person and each blessing which is on the list and tell God why you thank Him for each particular person and each particular blessing. After doing this, how do you feel: (a) emotionally, (b) physically, and (c) spiritually? What, if anything, did you learn from this exercise?

### **Read 1 Corinthians 1:4-9**

4. Grace is defined as "God's unmerited favor toward man". A person can receive and enjoy forgiveness and eternal life only by choosing to receive God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ. In verse 4, Paul thanks God for the Corinthian's who have received God's grace? Have you received God's grace? If not, why not? If so, what change has God's grace made in your life? What do you expect to happen in your life if everyday you "always thank God for (your Christian friends and family) because of his grace given to (them) in Christ Jesus"? Please explain the reasons for your answer.
5. Refer to verses 5-6. In what ways have "you been enriched in every way—in all your speaking and in all your knowledge—" because of your faith in Christ? Please explain your answers. In your answers, please state how often you thank God for the ways in which He has enriched you.

6. Refer to verse 7. What are your spiritual gifts? How are you using your spiritual gifts to glorify God? How are you “eagerly waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed”? Please state how the exercise of your spiritual gifts and your anticipation of the return of Christ cause you to daily overflow with love for Christ and thanksgiving to God.

7. Refer to verse 8. Are you thankful to God (a) for the spiritual (and physical) strength that you receive from Him daily? and (b) that you are blameless in His sight because of your faith in Christ? Please explain how (and how often) you express your gratitude to God for these two specific gifts of His grace.

8. Refer to verse 9. Do you have fellowship with God? Has God been faithful to you? For each of these two questions, please explain: (a) how often, (b) how, and (c) how often and how you express thanksgiving to God in return.

### **Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26**

9. On the evening of the “last supper”, did Jesus know that: (a) He would be betrayed; (b) He would be mocked, scourged, and crucified, and (c) He would be punished, forsaken, and separated from God the Father for the only time in eternity? See verse 24. Why did Jesus “give thanks”? What lessons do these verses teach us about giving thanks to God?

### **Read 1 Corinthians 15:50-58**

10. Please identify every statement in this passage for which you are thankful and, for each statement, please tell why you are thankful.

### **Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**

11. Are you joyful always? If not, why not? If so, why? Do you pray continually? If not, why not? If so, why and how? Do you give thanks to God in all circumstance? If not, why not? If so, why? What do your answers tell you about your relationship with Christ?

12. God really does want and expect us to obey these 3 verses. Paul clearly says that “this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” Please state if you want to obey these three commands. If your answer is “yes”, (a) what is your game-plan for doing so? and (b) what do you expect to be the obstacles and benefits to following the game-plan?

**Consider:** Sometimes, it is extremely challenging to give thanks for our circumstances. However, we do have the ability to give thanks in all circumstances. Why? Because nothing happens in our lives that does not first pass through the nail scarred hands of Jesus; and, because Jesus is always right there with us. “You think about that.” Amen.