"THE LIFE OF THANKSGIVING – MORE THAN A HOLIDAY"
PSALM 100:1-5; 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-24
TEXT: 1 THESSALONIANS 5:18

INTRO: The study of the Word of God indicates that THE GIVING OF THANKS TO GOD IS A VERY SIGNIFICANT PART OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE. In fact, the words THANKS (27), THANK (72), THANKSGIVING (28), THANKSGIVINGS (2), THANKFUL (3), THANKFULNESS (1), THANKED (3) AND THANKING (1) are mentioned a combined 137 times in scripture. This is an indication to us that SPIRITUALLY- MINDED, GOD-HONORING, BIBLE-BELIEVING, HOLY SPIRIT- FILLED CHRISTIANS WILL BE TRULY A THANKFUL PEOPLE. **(THERE IS NOTHING MORE DETRIMENTAL TO A TESTIMONY FOR CHRIST THAN A THANKLESS CHRISTIAN).** SO, HOW ABOUT YOU? HOW ABOUT ME? Today as we approach THANKSGIVING DAY IN AMERICA, we are going to focus on ONE MAIN VERSE that has only 17 WORDS, but in those words, we see that FOR THE CHRISTIAN, THANKSGIVING IS MORE THAN A HOLIDAY, IT IS TO BE ***A DAILY AND LIFE-LONG CHARACTERISTIC AS A TESTIMONY TO GOD'S FAITHFULNESS.*** Please note some scriptural principles:
-THANKSGIVING is not just about a meal with all the trimmings in which we indulge, although the "cup of thanksgiving," in reference to the shed blood of Christ is mentioned. (1 Corinthians 10:16).
-THANKSGIVING is not just a holiday celebration, although singing and praising God accompanies it. (Ezra 3:11; Nehemiah 11:17; Jeremiah 30:19).
-THANKSGIVING is not just a once-a-year occurrence but rather an expression of praise to God and is to be a way of life. (Ephesians 5:4; Philippians 4:6).
-THANKSGIVING is not merely sitting around saying what you are thankful for but is used by God as a witness for showing His great provision. (1 Cor. 14:16).
-THANKSGIVING is not just mere expression of thanks for what we are glad for but rather is to be made for everyone and everything. (1 Timothy 2:1).
-THANKSGIVING is not just a time to get together with family and friends, but an opportunity to go into the presence of Almighty God. (Psalm 95:2; 100:4).
AS A HOLIDAY "THANKSGIVING" DOES HAVE MERIT BUT FALLS SHORT OF WHAT THE BIBLICAL CONCEPT IS ALL ABOUT. ***SO TODAY LET'S STUDY WHAT BIBLICAL THANKSGIVING IS ALL ABOUT SO AS TO HONOR GOD IN OUR CONSISTENT GIVING OF THANKS.***

CONSIDER 1 THESSALONIANS 5:18

I. THE ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THANKSGIVING – NO OPTION
"IN EVERYTHING GIVE THANKS"

A. A Command, not a suggestion – Psalm 107:1
B. A Way of Life, not a once in a year Holiday – Psalm 150:6
C. A Part of Worship, not just an expression – Psalm 100:4
D. A Method of Teaching, not just a personal matter – Colossians 3:16,17

II. THE EXPANSE OF THANKSGIVING – NO LIMITATION GIVEN
"IN EVERYTHING"

A. In the Trials of Life – Because God has a purpose.
B. In the Victories of Life – Because God has provided.
C. In the Sorrows of Life – Because God truly cares.
D. In Worship- Because God deserves our worship and thanks.

III. THE EXPECTATION OF THANKSGIVING – NO DEBATE ALLOWED

"FOR THIS IS THE WILL OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS"

A. Personal Thanksgiving is God's Will for Believers...WHY?
   1. It enables us to Focus on Him
   2. It enables us to be Aware of His working in us
   3. It enables us to Depend upon Him
   4. It enables us to Witness for Him

B. Personal Thanksgiving is "In Christ Jesus" ...WHY?
   1. No matter what, we as believers are IN CHRIST.
   2. No matter what, we as believers have FORGIVENESS IN CHRIST.
   3. No matter what, we as believers have VICTORY IN CHRIST.
   4. No matter what, we as believers have SECURITY IN CHRIST.
   5. No matter what, we as believers have FELLOWSHIP WITH CHRIST.

IV. THE EXPERIENCE OF THANKSGIVING – NO EXCEPTION DESIGNATED

"CONCERNING YOU"

A. A Perpetual Obligation because of our Salvation in Christ.
B. A Personal Continuation because of our Blessings in Christ.
C. A Powerful Observation in our Witness for Christ.

V. THE EXHORTATION FOR THANKSGIVING (VS. 19)– NO DISOBEDIENCE

"QUENCH NOT THE SPIRIT"

(DO NOT RESIST THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT)

A. The Process of Quenching the Holy Spirit – DISOBEDIENCE - SIN
B. The Power over Quenching the Holy Spirit – OBEDIENCE- HOLINESS

VI. THE EFFECT OF THANKSGIVING – NO DISHONOR IN THE OUTCOME

A. In Reference to God – He is honored and exalted.
B. In Reference to Ourselves – We are obedient and blessed.
C. In Reference to Others – A Testimony is given.

LESSONS AND APPLICATION

EPHESIANS 5:18-20

1. The Command to be "FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT" which means to be CONTROLLED BY HIM....by saying NO to sin and self and YES to God's Word.

TOTAL OBEDIENCE!

2. The Result of being "FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT" is that the Spirit will give us an attitude and actions of THANKSGIVING.