

VGROUP STUDY GUIDE

"BEING THANKFUL"

1 THESSALONIANS 5: 18

NOVEMBER 26, 2023

FOCAL POINT: What was a typical way to spend Thanksgiving as a child? How did you spend Thanksgiving this year?

TEXT:

Give thanks in everything, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Paul called for the church in Thessalonica to give thanks in everything. Read 1 Thess. 1: 5-6. Why would this have been a challenge for the church to give thanks? Regardless, Paul let them know that being thankful is actually a command from God. Let's take a look at a few commands given on thanksgiving. We're commanded to be thankful so we can:

Express our gratitude (v. 18)

1. Can you share some times in your life when you prayed to know God's will? According to v. 18, what is God's will for the life of a believer? Read Ps. 34: 1. What is the challenge in doing that?

2. Why do you believe God would give a command like that? I find some comfort in doing this because of *Rom. 8: 28* (Read it). Does this verse bring you comfort? If so, why? Have you ever experienced something that wasn't enjoyable but it turned out to be a blessing?

Review your perspective (v. 18)

1. One of the questions a pastor receives from people over and over again is this: How can I know God's will for my life? You don't have to worry about that question here because Paul answered it. Notice God's will is for you to be *thankful*. Thankful for what? Thankful in *everything*.

2. Can you name some reasons why Christians, even today, have reason to be thankful?

3. What's a practical way you can demonstrate thanksgiving to God? Make it a part of your prayer time. Review things during the week to tell God you're grateful for. Let's start now. Each person share 2 things you're grateful for this week.

Extend the grace of God to others (v. 18)

1. How can you extend God's grace to others? Skim over Acts 16. How did Paul and Silas extend God's grace to the Philippian jailer?

2. The mark of a person who's grateful is a person who extends God's goodness to others around him. Name some ways you can extend God's grace to your neighbors, to your co-workers.