thanksgiving with the churches



• Corinthians • Galatians • Ephesians
• Philippians • Colossians

“Grace and gratitude belong together like heaven and earth.
Gratitude evokes grace like the voice and echo. Gratitude follows grace as thunder follows lightning.”
Karl Barth

“Christmas every year - Easter every week - Thanksgiving every day”

50 Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

Problem of the flesh 50

- Same problem as John 3 – Nicodemas
- Flesh & blood – Curse of sin – Gen 3
- Better man? Restored soul!
- ‘inherit’ – family blessing – Adam
- 2nd Adam – 1 Cor 15:45-49
- Divine transaction – not earthly!



“Thanksgiving is inseparable from true prayer; it is almost essentially connected with it.”

John Wesley

ACTS

Adoration

Confession

Thanksgiving

Supply

51 Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed,

52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

53 For this perishable must put on the
imperishable, and this mortal must put on
immortality.

54 But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, “DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory.

55 O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY?
O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?”

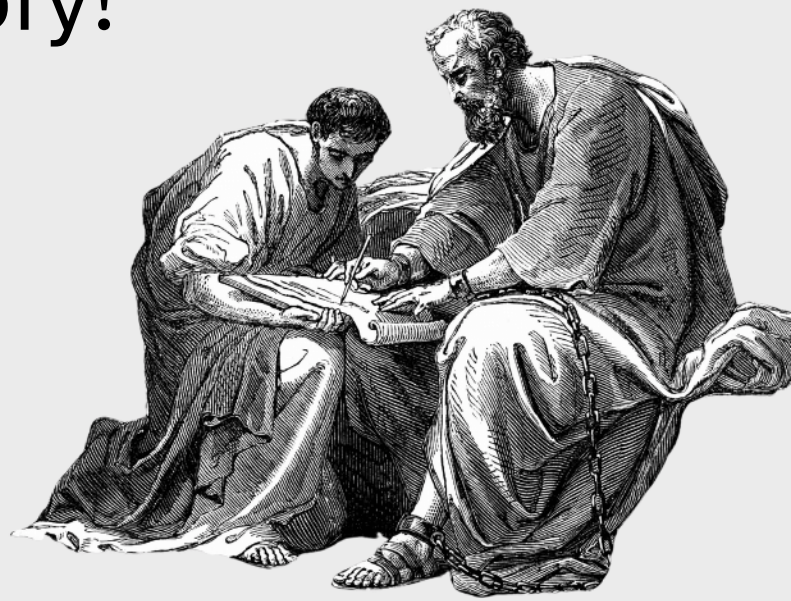
Promise of Heaven 51-55

- ‘Behold!’ – look!
- ‘mystery’ – beyond human reason
- ‘sleep’ – euphemism
- ‘not all’ – ‘all’
- ‘perishable’/ ‘imperishable’
- ‘mortal’ / ‘immortality’



Promise of Heaven 51-55

- Quote from Isaiah 25:8
- Quote from Hosea 13:14
- Sin is not the enemy – death is
- Jesus Resurrection center of all history!
- Small blessings now – eternity later
- Be grateful for all – big & small



“We pray for the big things and forget to give thanks for the ordinary, small gifts. How can God entrust great things to one who will not thankfully receive from Him the little things?”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law;

57 but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Power of God 56-57

- What did sin bring us?
- Death – separation from life
- Law – proof of our unrighteousness
- ‘thanks be to God’
- ‘victory through our Lord’
- Resurrection the center of faith!



“Gratitude is an offering precious in the sight of God, and it is one that the poorest of us can make and be not poorer but richer for having made it.”

A.W. Tozer

58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.

Position of the Believer 58

- ‘toil is not in vain’
- Eternity does not make time meaningless
- **Character**
  - ‘steadfast’ – 3x settled, fixed
  - ‘immoveable’ – 1x not moveable



Position of the Believer 58

- ‘toil is not in vain’
- Eternity does not make time meaningless
- **Conduct**
  - ‘always abounding’ – over and above!
  - ‘in the work of the Lord’
- **‘not empty!’**



“The best kind of giving is thanksgiving.”

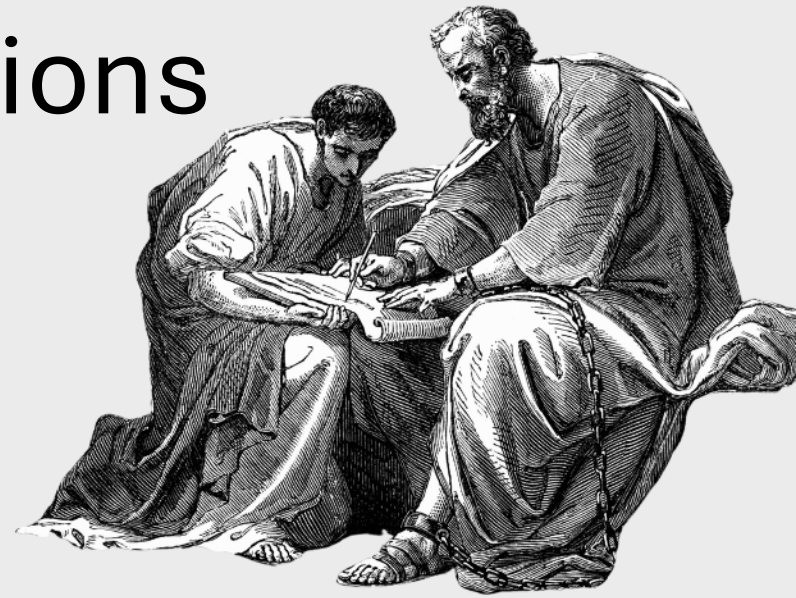
G.K. Chesterton

“Christmas every year - Easter every week - Thanksgiving every day”

Thanksgiving every day?

- I am grateful for God's goodness
- I am grateful for God's provision
- I am grateful for God's testing
- I am grateful for God's corrections

"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."
1 Thess. 5:18



“It’s one thing to be grateful.
It’s another to give thanks.
Gratitude is what you feel.
Thanksgiving is what you do.”
Tim Keller

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