

## Jesus and Thanksgiving

**Text:** 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

**Context** - In 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, Paul concludes a rapid-fire series of practical instructions for Christian living in the last days.

### **Christ's presence in our lives affords us the ability to...**

#### **I. \_\_\_\_\_ thanks in all circumstances (vs. 18a)**

- A. "Paul was not teaching that we should thank God for everything that happens to us, but in everything. Evil does not come from God, so we should not thank him for it. But when evil strikes, we can still be thankful for God's presence and for the good that he will accomplish through the distress." (Life Application Study Bible)
- B. "In every event or circumstance (thing) the Christian is to give thanks to God for the good He can bring out of the event, even should the event be unpleasant. The constant attitude of prayer, mentioned in verse 17, will help the believer to maintain gratitude in the face of adversity." (King James Version Study Bible)

#### **II. \_\_\_\_\_ God's will concerning thankfulness (vs. 18b)**

- A. The thought isn't 'this is God's will, so you must do it.' The thought is rather 'this is God's will, so you can do it.' It isn't easy to rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and in everything give thanks, but we can do it because it is God's will." (David Guzik)
- B. The will of God, as clearly set forth by means of the redemptive work and revelation of Jesus Christ, is this very thing, namely, that believers should always be joyful, should ceaselessly pray, and should in all circumstances give thanks. (William Hendriksen and Simon J. Kistemaker, Exposition of I-II Thessalonians, vol. 3, New Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1953–2001), 138.)