

America: Be Thankful

I. Wicked or Godly Generation?!

Romans 1:28 (NIV®)

Furthermore, since **they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God**, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done.

Galatians 4:4-5 (NIV®)

⁴ But **when the time had fully come**, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, ⁵ to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.

Luke 11:29 (NIV®)

As the crowds increased, Jesus said, "**This is a wicked generation.** It asks for a miraculous sign, but none will be given it except the sign of Jonah.

II. The Power of Thankfulness

Luke 7:36-50 (NIV®)

³⁶ Now **one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him**, so he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. ³⁷ When **a woman who had lived a sinful life in that town** learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster jar of perfume, ³⁸ and as she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.

³⁹ When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is--that she is a sinner."

⁴⁰ Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you." "Tell me, teacher," he said.

⁴¹ "Two men owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. ⁴² Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he canceled the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?" ⁴³ Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt canceled." "You have judged correctly," Jesus said.

⁴⁴ Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. ⁴⁵ You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. ⁴⁶ You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet.

⁴⁷ Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven--for she loved much. But he who has

been forgiven little loves little." ⁴⁸ Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

⁴⁹ **The other guests began to say among themselves**, "Who is this who even forgives sins?"

⁵⁰ Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

III. Let Us Be Thankful

A. Thankfulness & Grace

Hebrews 12:28 (NIV®)

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, **let us be thankful**, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe,

Hebrews 12:28 (NKJV®)

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, **let us have grace**, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.

- ❖ When we are unthankful, we are out of the grace of God.
- ❖ We cannot enjoy God's grace without being thankful.

B. Instructions to the Church

1. Peace in Our Hearts & Thankfulness

Colossians 3:15,17 (NKJV®)

¹⁵ And **let the peace of God rule in your hearts**, to which also you were called in one body; and **be thankful**. . . .¹⁷ And *whatever* you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, **giving thanks to God the Father through Him**.

2. Expressing Thanks — God's Will

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NKJV®)

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ **in everything give thanks**; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

3. Thankfulness Dispels Anxiety

Philippians 4:6 (NIV®)

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, **with thanksgiving**, present your requests to God.

Prayer

Heavenly Father be merciful to our nation. You have uniquely blessed us. We have enjoyed freedom, abundance, protection and great liberty. Yet, we have turned our

backs to You. In our pride and arrogance we have imagined our strength has made us strong. Forgive us for our arrogance and rebellion. Do not look upon us in anger. Pour out Your Spirit upon our nation once again. Only the Almighty God can deliver us and make us clean. We turn to You our God and our Redeemer, amen.