

Sunday, November 19, 2023
EVERYDAY IS THANKSGIVING
PART 2: COMMUNION

Last Sunday, we began a study intended to assist us to refine the art of thanksgiving. This is not just a seasonal sermon – it is a life sermon for those who know the Lord. Let’s look at our foundational scripture again:

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NIV)

We are in the process of “tearing” this scripture apart to learn its truth. Last time, we studied what it means when it refers to “all circumstances”. Each circumstance of our lives – good or bad – is part of a whole which God works within to bring “good” for His child. In whatever circumstance we find ourselves in, we are to “give thanks”:

euxaristéō (from /eú, "good" and /xaris, "grace") – properly, acknowledging that "God's grace works well," i.e. for our *eternal* gain and His glory; to give thanks – literally, "thankful for God's good grace."

Everyone say, “God’s grace works well”. What if we’re in a bad circumstance? We learned last week that bad circumstances are part – not all – of the whole. The whole is the entirety of God’s overcoming victory in your life – the entire pipeline of grace in which you live. It is encapsulated in the biblical phrase stating that we are more than conquerors (Rom. 8:37).

Defeat can come when we make assumptions about “the whole” through a bad circumstance. You are in the pipeline of God’s glory. In that pipeline lie difficult circumstances. *No matter where you are, you are not at “the end” yet.* “The end” equates to God’s work within my circumstances. Patience releases power. We must be patient with ourselves realizing that God’s glory will be seen in us and is probably being seen now more than we realize.

Some church traditions use the same word to describe Communion – eucharist – that is used in 1 Thessalonians 5:18. What happens when we take Communion? We participate in the life of Christ. Did Christ experience bad circumstances? Yes. Did Christ’s life end through bad circumstance? No. *In Christ, death always leads to resurrection.*

Romans 6:8 (NIV)

Bad circumstances may be painful for a season but the “death” you know in them will be overcome by the resurrection power of Christ. So, in every circumstance, we are experiencing Communion with Christ. And therefore, our circumstances cannot end in defeat or death – they end in resurrection. So, we give thanks for the grace of God which works “well” in our lives. Our focus is upon God’s ability and our destiny in His glory rather than the temporal nature of our circumstances.

[2 Corinthians 4:18 \(NIV\)](#)

So, in each bad circumstance, see yourself approaching the Lord’s Table and in your communion with Him, see yourself rising from the death of your bad circumstance.

Today’s Scriptures:

- 1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NIV)
- Romans 6:8 (NIV)
- 2 Corinthians 4:18 (NIV)