

Being Thankful for God's Purpose

Rev. Lex DeLong / General

Thanksgiving 2023 / Thanksgiving (Holiday) / Hebrews 12:28–29; Psalm 95:1–3

How much does someone have to do for you in order to warrant your gratitude. What has God done for you?

Notes

11/19 Heb. 12:28-29, "Being Thankful for God's Purpose," Subtitle: Acceptable Service, Scripture: Psalm 95:1-3

How much does someone have to do for you in order to warrant your gratitude.

What has God done for you?

Does God deserve your thanksgiving?

Does God deserve your worship?

The outline of Hebrews 12 is threefold:

1. Since we are surrounded by witnesses, Let's run the race with endurance (12:1–29)
2. The race is spiritual - heavenly Jerusalem (12:18–27)
3. Therefore, serve God as priests - gratefully through grace - in the spiritual race (12:28–29)

As children of God, we have received an unshakeable kingdom, so...

1. Show gratitude (Heb. 12:28)
 - Grace in our dealings
 - Gratitude in our attitude
2. Offer Worship

- Acceptable Worship (c.f. Heb. 13:15-16)
- Reverent Worship (Profound respect)
- Awe filled Worship (Fearful wonder)

3. Know God is consuming (Heb. 12:29)

Grace in our dealings:

Ephesians 4:29 "29 Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear."

Colossians 4:6 "6 Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person."

1 Peter 4:10 "10 As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."

Gratitude in our attitude:

Psalm 136:1 "1 Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, For His lovingkindness is everlasting."

Colossians 3:15 "15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful."

Philippians 4:6-7 "6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication **with thanksgiving** let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

God's consuming fire:

Hebrews (5) Dangers of Turning Away (12:25-29)

The author of Hebrews is warning genuine believers of the danger of God's

discipline in the case of severe disobedience, but his warning does not indicate a potential loss of salvation nor is it addressed specifically to those who are only “mere professors” and not truly converted.

New American Commentary

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The idea of Thanksgiving by the pilgrims in 1621 was to show that, even in times of adversity, there was always reason to give thanks to God. This world and all that is in it is shake-able, but temporary.

2 Corinthians 4:17–18 “17 For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, 18 while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”

This world and all that is in it is shake-able, but temporary, but the kingdom of God is unshakable and everlasting.

This Thanksgiving, may we fill this season with true Thanksgiving to God as we offer acceptable worship to Him, knowing that God is and intends to be a consuming presence of grace for you, in this life and the next.

We, like the Pilgrims, have a choice. In life there will always be those things that we can complain about (the Pilgrims had lost many loved ones), but there will also be much to be thankful for. As our society becomes increasingly secular, the actual “giving of thanks to God” during our annual

Thanksgiving holiday is being overlooked, leaving only the feasting. May God grant that He may find us grateful every day for all of His gifts, spiritual and material. God is good, and every good gift comes from Him (James 1:17). For those who know Christ, God also works everything together for good, even events we would not necessarily consider good (Romans 8:28-30). May He find us to be His grateful children.

Happy Thanksgiving!