**July 29, 2018 “Always Giving Thanks” Ephesians 5:20**

Not too long ago I was listening to a broadcast on the radio and the subject being discussed was the demise of the American society. The host was asking the guest what are some of the signs of an impending implosion of our society or for that matter any society. Interestingly, the guest replied that the number one reason so many in our society today are, for example, looking to socialism where everyone has a perceived equality of life which usually results in everyone have nearly nothing, is because of one major factor and that is people are generally ungrateful. II Timothy 3:1-5… this is the Church… not in the world.

The guest went on to say that this ungrateful spirit exemplifies itself in the demands it brings forth. He asked the host to explain why in the last several years all the so-called “rights” of people have appeared? We now have people calling for a “right” to a living wage; a “right” to marry whomever I love; a “right” to an abortion, a “right” to vote even if I am a felon or if I am an illegal alien. I have “right” to a college education; I have a “right” to quality healthcare, I have a “right” to affordable housing and I have a “right” to scream in your face if I don’t like what you are saying.

The guest went on to point out that many of the protesters of today, have the latest cell phones, iPads and fit bits?????... and are still ungrateful. Can anyone tell me why it is important to know how many steps you took yesterday? I was speaking with someone yesterday who is a carpenter and he was telling me that there is a new hammer out that was made of some special material and the cost for that hammer is around $250.

Why have I told you all these things? It is because the text that we have been focused on for the last few weeks, is giving us the recipe for a quality Christian life here on earth that affects not only you and me but also all those around us and it addresses the issue of ungratefulness of un-thankfulness.

Note… the command to the believers

* Be filled with the Spirit
* Speaking to one another… first step
  + Psalms
  + Hymns
  + Spiritual songs
* Singing and making melody in your hearts

1. Always giving thanks… second step
   1. For all things
      1. Note… not all good things as we perceive them
      2. Rather “all things”
   2. In the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ
   3. To God… even the Father
2. Look at this in reverse order
   1. To God… even the Father
      1. Psalm 139
         1. Before we start to read…
   2. What would we list as our definition of a wonderful life?
      1. $500k to $1M a year salary
         1. Not work more than 30 hours a week
      2. Have servants to
         1. Do your laundry
         2. Clean the house
         3. Cook your food
      3. House in the Caribbean
         1. Bedroom overlooking the bay
         2. Gentle breeze blowing in
      4. New Camaro in the driveway
         1. 500 horse power engine
         2. New Corvette which is your spare car

What kind of person would we be? What would my character be like if I had everything listed above?

1. Psalm 139
   1. Psalm 139:1-6
      1. There is nothing about us that God does not know
      2. He even understands our thoughts
         1. How does that make you feel?
            1. That God knows your thoughts?
         2. Before a word is spoken He knows it
            1. Are those words of anger or kindness?
            2. Are those words to my husband or wife?
            3. To my children?
            4. Are those words of complaint?
            5. Are those words of gratefulness?
   2. Such knowledge is to wonderful for me
      1. Have we ever considered that God knows us far better than even we can possibly understand?
      2. That He knows what is in my heart?
      3. Every wicked, rebellious, selfish thought?
      4. And still He loves me?
2. John 3:16-17… For God so loved the world that He gave…
   1. Thou shalt call His Name Jesus… He will save His people from their sins
      1. Psalm 139:7-12
         1. Romans 8:31-37
         2. Why?... look what follows…
         3. Roman 8:38-39
      2. Psalm 139:13-16
         1. Isaiah 55:6-13
         2. Psalm 139:17-18

What is God’s message to us today? It is this… It is very hard to argue with anyone, man, woman or child who is thankful for everything.

The Spirit filled man, woman or child lives with only one thought continually in the forefront of their mind and that thought is “O What a Wonder that Jesus Loves Me”

Over the years, I have read descriptions of the lives of many co-called “stars”. Of John Wayne, Dean Martin, Frank Sinatra, Robert Mitchum, Marilyn Monroe, Michael Jackson, Prince and others whose lives where a continuing carousel of failed marriages, of drugs and of alcohol addictions.

They serve as a reminder to us all, that a person who has everything this world has to offer, can live a very miserable life but the person who may not have much in terms of worldly wealth can live abundantly if they are always giving thanks to God for all things.

Please dwell on this thought this coming week… God… I am thankful that you love me unconditionally, forgive me continuously and died for me so that I might live abundantly.

Search me O God… Psalm 139:23-24