

Episode #445 Thanksgiving 1: Paul's Thankfulness

I. At this time of year, it is traditional to think of all the things we are thankful for. But do we ever consider the importance God puts on thankfulness in His Word? It is very important to God that His people be thankful, and we will examine what He says about thankfulness today in the dispensation of grace.

II. Thankfulness is incredibly important to God.

A. The story of the ten lepers shows the importance He places on thankfulness. Luke 17:11-19.

B. Lack of thankfulness is part of the beginning of humanity's downward spiral away from God. Romans 1:21.

III. The apostle Paul is our example, and he was thankful in many ways and for many different things in the dispensation of grace.

A. Ephesians 1:15-16, Colossians 1:3-4. Paul thanks God for believers today.

1. He is thankful for faith.

2. He is thankful for love, particularly for the saints.

B. Philippians 1:3-5. Paul thanks God for the Philippian believers.

1. For his memories of them.

2. For their fellowship with him in the gospel from the very first.

C. I Timothy 1:12. Paul was thankful God put him in His service.

D. II Timothy 1:3-5. Paul was thankful for Timothy.

1. For his memories of Timothy.

2. For his genuine faith, and that of his mother and grandmother.

E. Philemon 1:4-5. Paul was thankful for Philemon.

1. For his love and faith toward the Lord Jesus and all saints.

2. For every good thing in him in Christ Jesus.

IV. Conclusion: Thankfulness is a critically important thing to God. It is not right to not be thankful to Him for all He has done. Lack of thankfulness was one of the very first steps in humanity's long, downward spiral away from God. Paul was thankful for the faith and love of God's people; for his fellowship with them; for his memories of them; and for every good thing in them. He was thankful God put him in the ministry. Are we thankful for such things, or do we only think of material blessings? Let us consider Paul's example and be thankful to God for the higher, spiritual gifts He gives!