

Examples of thankfulness.

As a Christian, I can thank God that every circumstance could and should be worse, that every circumstance is for my good, and that every circumstance will ultimately get better in glory. I therefore thank God for Jesus Christ who suffered the worst of all circumstances so that I could enjoy the best of circumstances forever.

A THANK BATTLE

The fight to be a better thanker is worth the fight.

Science has shown that gratitude helps reduce stress, anger, envy, greed, and anxiety while improving relationships, energy, sleep, happiness, and overall health. God calls us to gratitude not just because it lifts Him up; it lifts us up too.

Develop the habit of deliberately thanking God in your life.



Thanksgiving Eve Service
7:00 p.m.

* Indicates to stand if you are able.

Call to Worship

* Hymn #769 “Let All Things Now Living

* Prayer

* Hymn # 767 “We Gather Together”

Psalm 118

Hymn # 44 “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

Video

Message: True Gratefulness

Prayers of Thanksgiving

* Hymn # 765 “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

Dismissal

TRUE GRATEFULNESS

It’s been a tough year so far.

The coronavirus, social and political unrest, the RCA and her implosion, and we are all getting older.

And tomorrow is Thanksgiving. How are we supposed to practice thanksgiving after all of this?

Paul tells us to “Give thanks in all circumstances?” What does God through Paul mean and how are you and I do this?

False Gratefulness

Well, there are three things that he does not mean

First, God does not mean that we are to give thanks *for all* circumstances.

God also does not mean for us to give thanks *for all the good things and just ignore all the bad things*.

Neither does God mean that we should give thanks *despite* our circumstances.

True Gratefulness

So, if it’s not giving thanks for all circumstances, if it’s not giving thanks by ignoring circumstances, and if it’s not giving thanks despite circumstances, what does 1 Thessalonians 5:18 mean?

The key is the smallest word in the verse, the preposition *in*. Here is what 1 Thessalonians 5:18 means: *Whatever circumstances we are in, we are to find cause for thanksgiving*. This still allows us to lament sin and suffering, but it also requires us to find reasons for thanking God at the same time, or at least eventually.

(Continued on Back)