

DOCTRINE OF THANKSGIVING

- I.** Preliminary considerations.
- A.** Thanksgiving is a prayer expressing gratitude and appreciation to God for His person and works.
 - B.** It is closely associated with praise in Scripture and is considered a spiritual sacrifice. Heb.13:15
 - C.** It is one of three aspects of prayer, including intercession and petition. Phi.4:6
 - D.** It can be rendered through song. Col.3:16; Psa.147:7
 - E.** It should be characterized by spontaneity (Act.28:15) and in regard to all circumstances (1The.5:18).
 - F.** The doctrine is designed to heighten our awareness of the importance of offering thanks to God for all things.
 - G.** It is the appropriate attitude of believers toward God.
 - H.** Negative volition does not thank God, as it does not truly accept His revelation. Rom.1:21
- II.** Vocabulary.
- A.** Hebrew.
 - 1. תודה – todah; noun; translated “thanksgiving” 18x.
 - 2. ידה – yadah; verb; translated “give thanks” 64x; praise 3x.
 - B.** Greek.
 - 1. εὐχαριστέω – eucharisteo; verb; “give thanks” 38x.
 - 2. εὐχάριστος – eucharistos; adj.; “be thankful” 1x.
 - 3. εὐχαριστία – eucharistia; noun; “gratitude, thankfulness” 15x.
- III.** It is good to thank and praise the Lord. Psa.92:1
- IV.** Thanksgiving is commanded. Psa.95:2; 97:12; 100:4; 105:1; 106:1; Eph.5:4; Phil.4:6; Col.3:15-17; 1The.5:18; 1Tim.2:1; Heb.13:15
- V.** The righteous give thanks forever. Psa.52:8,9; 79:13
- VI.** It is evidence of the Spirit-filled life and God’s Ph₂ will. Eph.5:20; 1The.5:18
- VII.** It is the continual theme of the 3rd heaven. Rev.4:9; 7:12; 11:17
- VIII.** There was a special category of peace offering designated "Thanksgiving Peace Offering". Lev.7:12,13,15 cp.2Chr.29:31; Psa.50:14,23; 56:12
- IX.** King David appointed certain Levites (headed by Asaph) to form a choir for the praise and thanksgiving of God. 1Chr.16:4,41 cp.25:3; 2Chr.20:20-22 (basis for victory in the days of Jehoshaphat, king of Judah); 2Chr.30:13-22 (a part of the spiritual restoration in the days of Hezekiah). This function continued in the days of the restoration from Babylonian captivity. Ezz.3:10,11; Neh.12:8.

- X.** Things we are to be thankful for.
- A.** The person of God. 1Chr.29:13; Psa.7:17
 - B.** His judgments. Psa.75; Rev.11:17
 - C.** His works and wonders. Psa.9:1 cp.Psa.136; Rev.4:9-11
 - D.** His word. Psa.33; 119:7,62; 138:2,4; Col.2:7
 - E.** Deliverance from a pre-mature death. Isa.38:18-19
 - F.** Forgiveness, DD, reversion recovery and deliverance from SUD. Psa.30:2-5; Isa.12:1
 - G.** Ph₂ vindication. Psa.140:12,13
 - H.** Deliverance from enemies. 2Sam.22:48-50; Psa.18:48-50
 - I.** Daily food. Mat.15:36 (Jesus' example); Act.27:35 (Paul's example); 1Tim.4:3,4
 - J.** Christ and our salvation. 2Cor.9:15; 2The.2:13.
 - K.** Ph₃ blessing. Col.1:12
 - L.** Ultimate victory over the STA. Rom.7:24,25; 1Cor.15:56,57
 - M.** Grace for daily living and for our ambassadorship. 2Cor.2:14
 - N.** The +V and application of others. Rom.1:8; 6:17; 16:4; 2Cor.1:11; 4:15; 8:16; Eph.1:16; Phi.1:3; Col.1:3,4; 1The.1:2; 2:13; 3:9; 2The.1:3; 2Tim.1:3; Philm.4
 - O.** Various blessings and opportunities. 1Cor.1:14; 14:18; 1Tim.1:12
 - P.** Positional grace. 1Cor.1:4
 - Q.** For civil and other authorities maintaining law and order. 1Tim.2:1,2
- XI.** Israel will give thanks before the world in the last days. Isa.12:1,4; 25:1ff; Jer.33:11.
- XII.** Thanksgiving is one of our main responses to the Lord's Table; "Eucharist" (from eucharisteo) is a term to designate the ritual. Cf.1Cor.11:24

*"So we Your people and the sheep of Your pasture Will give thanks to You forever;
To all generations we will tell of Your praise."
Psa.79:13*