

ALWAYS... a Thanksgiving Reminder

**"Giving thanks always for all things to God the Father
in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ..."**

Ephesians 5:20

This has been a challenging year for many in our nation, and many of us are getting by with less this holiday season than in years past. While the political talking heads are saying "recession over!" the fact is joblessness continues to increase. And for many of us who do have a job, there's not a lot of "certainty" about the future stability of our income. Moreover, we live in a culture that continues to grow more hostile toward Christianity, and laws are being considered (and even enacted) that will likely make life harder on the American church.

So what are God's people to do? Paul told us the answer in Ephesians 5:20 = "**GIVING THANKS ALWAYS FOR ALL THINGS...**" When we give thanks, we make some vital statements in the heavenly realms:

- 1) That we **KNOW** God is good, and that He's worthy of praise
- 2) That we **TRUST** God for the future, no matter how things look today (and His future for us is GOOD!)
- 3) That we **LOVE** God more than we love comfort or personal ease, and we're not going to wimp out on Him when things get rough
- 4) That we **BELIEVE** He's causing ALL things (*even the hard things*) to work together for our good as we love and seek Him

I know I've said this before, but it bears repeating: *when the storm comes your way is the MOST vital time to give thanks and to praise your Father for His goodness!* It gives Him glory, it stymies the enemy, and it guards your own heart against resentment and self-pity.

So let's take the opportunity this Thanksgiving to remember all the miracles He's done for us, all the deliverances He's wrought, all the provision He's given, all the manna from Heaven and water from the rock, all the prayers He's answered, all the sicknesses He's healed, all the times He's spared our lives, all the sins He's forgiven us and the mercy He's shown, and ALL the goodness and blessing He's poured out on our lives. **IT'S TIME TO GIVE HIM THANKS**; because He's been a mighty good God to us.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving in the love of our Savior,

Pastor Matthew Casey
Thanksgiving 2009

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