



Sunday 29 September 2013

PURSUIING GODLINESS
SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES
2. LEARNING TO GIVE THANKS



SCRIPTURES

- 1 Timothy 4: 6-8
- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
- Ephesians 5:15-21
- Psalm 103:1-5

1 TIMOTHY 4:6-8

In pointing out these things to the brethren, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, constantly **nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound doctrine** which you have been following.

⁷ But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, **discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness**; ⁸ for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but **godliness is profitable for all things**, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18

Rejoice always; ¹⁷ pray without ceasing; ¹⁸ in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

EPHESIANS 5:15-21

Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of your time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; ²⁰ **always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;** ²¹ and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.

PSALM 103:1-5

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name. ² Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget none of His benefits; ³ who pardons all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases; ⁴ who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with lovingkindness and compassion; ⁵ who satisfies your years with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle.

PURSUING GODLINESS

- Pursuing godliness needs discipline, pursuing
- Walking with God (pursuing godliness) needs discipline, pursuing
 - requires developing spiritual disciplines
 - learning to walk with regards to things **we can't see** in the face of things **we can see**

HOW GREAT A LOVE!

- God loves us perfectly!
 - His motivation in teaching us, commanding us is LOVE
- The devil tries to undermine what God has said to us
 - Don't let him
- How do we respond to circumstances, situations?
 - Naturally, grumble, get depressed, get mad
 - But we are not just 'natural' anymore...

LEARNING TO GIVE THANKS

- FACT: God loves us!
- FACT: God has prepared good things for us
- In everything, give thanks
 - Have to look beyond what we see to what God has said
 - A choice regarding what directs our course
 - Essential to be and remain filled with the Spirit
 - A practice to learn (discipline)

