

Gratitude

1 Thessalonians 5:18

Summary

As 2018 comes to a close there is no better way to finish the year than by thanking God for what he has done. However, it can be tempting to allow circumstances to dictate whether or not we are thankful. God points us to biblical gratitude in his Word that is focused on his work and that transcends our circumstances.

Introduction

While there are many good reasons to be grateful we pursue such a practice primarily because it is God's will for our lives. It is as much on God's heart for us as is our purity, integrity, and holiness. Biblical gratitude does not depend on our circumstances but rather on the work that God is doing in us and through us. We can thank him for his work regardless of the situations we are in.

Reflection Questions (Sermon outline on the back)

1. Review (and share) God's initial transformation in your life that he worked in Christ at the time of your conversion. Thank God for that.
2. Review (and share) any way that God has grown you spiritually over the past year or two. Thank God for that.
3. What events or people can you thank God for? Do so and, if a person is involved, write them a note or send them an email or text.
4. What difficult experiences have you encountered over the last year? How has God brought good out of it? How can you thank God even in the midst of those difficult situations?
5. How can you pursue a practice of gratitude more regularly over the next weeks and months?

1. The Biblical Command – I Thessalonians 5:18

2. Biblical Support – Romans 1:18-21; I Thessalonians 1:2-5; 2:13; 3:9

3. Biblical Application