

Date: November 20, 2005
Text: Colossians 1:12-14
Topic: Thanksgiving
Series: none
CD #: 05-38

Focal Point Radio Ministries
Dr. Mike Fabarez

Spiritual Count Your Blessings

Anchoring Our Thanksgiving On What Matters Most



*** The Essential Components of "Giving Thanks"...**

 **A)**

 **B)**

Colossians 1:12-14

¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. ¹³ For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
(NIV)

1. Thank God for _____ (v.12)

2. Thank God for _____ (v.13a)

3. Thank God for _____ (vv.13b-14)

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's message. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's message. It is also helpful to discuss your answers with others. This can take place with friends, your family, accountability partners, or ministry groups within the church.

1. No one tolerates ingrates gladly. We all share our Maker's aversion to ingratitude. Describe your feelings in response to someone's obvious lack of thankfulness for something costly you did for them.

Read **Luke 17:11-18**. What is your reaction to the realization that there have been times you have failed to thank God for the good things he has done for you?

Read **Luke 6:35-36**. In what way does this passage highlight God's incredible grace? How does it challenge your lack of grace in response to ungrateful people?

2. If you are a Christian, write out two great things you are anticipating about being a part of God's coming kingdom and your participation in the "New Jerusalem."

Write out a prayer of thanksgiving that you have been secured a place there.

3. Think about your sin and what it deserves. Write out a prayer that thanks God for his mercy and forgiveness toward you.
4. Having experienced people who are unfaithful and fickle, what does it mean to you that God has extended his permanent love and unfailing forgiveness through the merit of his Son?
5. Read **Psalms 69:30-31**. What will you do to remind yourself to "please God" in this way *everyday* by giving thanks to him?

We are reading through the Bible in a year! Here is this week's schedule.

November 20th

Ezk. 45-46 & Jms. 1

November 21st

Ezk. 47-48 & Jms. 2

November 22nd

Dan. 1-2 & Jms. 3

November 23rd

Dan. 3-4 & Jms. 4

November 24th

Dan. 5-6 & Jms. 5

November 25th

Dan. 7-8 & 1Pt. 1

November 26th

Dan. 9-10 & 1Pt. 2

November 27th

Dan. 11-12 & 1Pt. 3

Here are some resources which may help you understand and apply the truths presented in this week's sermon.

- Adams, Jay. **From Forgiven to Forgiving**. Calvary Press, 1997.
- Bridges, Jerry. **I Exalt You, O God: Encountering His Greatness in Your Private Worship**. Waterbrook Press, 2001.
- Chapell, Bryan. **Holiness by Grace: Delighting in the Joy That Is Our Strength**. Crossway Books, 2001.
- DeMoss, Nancy. **The Attitude of Gratitude: Developing a Thankful Heart**. Life Action Ministries, 2000.
- Jarrell, Jane. **50 Ways to a Thankful Heart**. Harvest House, 2000. *[This book is designed to help children learn to be grateful.]*
- Lutz, Susan. **Thankfulness: Even When It Hurts**. P & R, 2002.
- MacDonald, James. **Lord, Change My Attitude (Before It's Too Late)**. Moody Press, 2001.
- Pao, David W. **Thanksgiving: An Investigation of a Pauline Theme**. InterVarsity Press, 2003.
- Rainey, Barbara. **Thanksgiving: A Time to Remember**. Crossway Books, 2003.
- Spurgeon, Charles. **Power in Praising God**. Whitaker House, 1998.
- Swindoll, Charles. **Hope Again**. Word Publishing, 1996.
- _____. **Laugh Again**. Word Publishing, 1991.
- Tozer, A. W. "Thankfulness as a Moral Therapeutic," in **The Root of Righteousness**. Christian Publications, 1955.
- Walker, Laura. **Ferris Wheels, Daffodils, & Hot Fudge Sundaes: A Journal of Gratitude**. Baker, 2002.