

Thankful – A heart filled by God

Trevor Van Laar - 11.21.21

The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” 25 In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” 26 For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 NIV

JESUS’S THANKFULNESS...

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

YOUR THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK –

IN 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16–18, PAUL LEAVES THESE INSTRUCTIONS FOR HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS IN THESSALONICA, “REJOICE ALWAYS, PRAY CONTINUALLY, GIVE THANKS IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES; FOR THIS IS GOD’S WILL FOR YOU IN CHRIST JESUS.

AS WE CELEBRATE THANKSGIVING THIS WEEK, PAUL’S ADVICE MIGHT SEEM ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO US. REJOICE ALWAYS? PRAY ALWAYS? BE THANKFUL ALWAYS? AS YOU REFLECT BACK ON THIS LAST YEAR, THESE THREE COMMANDS MIGHT SEEM LAUGHABLE! SOME OF US MIGHT BE THINKING “IF YOU ONLY KNEW THE YEAR I HAD, YOU WOULDN’T EVEN SUGGEST I “REJOICE”!” BUT YET, PAUL WASN’T NAÏVE AS TO HOW HARD LIFE CAN BE. AFTER ALL, HE MADE IT THROUGH 2 SHIPWRECKS, SEVERAL BEATINGS AND BEING JAILED SEVERAL TIMES. SO, WHAT WAS PAUL SAYING? PAUL KNEW WHAT IT WAS TO SUFFER. BUT EVEN MORE, PAUL KNEW WHAT IT WAS TO FIND JOY. PAUL KNEW THAT TRUE HAPPINESS WAS FOUND IN GOD ALONE. SO, PAUL FOCUSED ON GOD AND NOT HIMSELF.

THIS THANKSGIVING, HOW CAN YOU FOCUS ON GOD? START IN PRAYER AND OPEN YOUR HEART TO HIS GRACE AND FORGIVENESS. GIVE THANKS FOR WHATEVER BLESSINGS YOU CAN THINK OF. THEN, DO IT AGAIN! IF YOU NEED HELP, ASK A FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER TO PRAY WITH YOU, OR ASK THEM TO HELP YOU THINK FOR GOD’S BLESSINGS IN YOUR LIFE. MORE IMPORTANTLY, DON’T WAIT UNTIL NEXT THANKSGIVING TO CONTINUE TO REJOICE, PRAY, AND BE THANKFUL!

SOURCES:

Q: #401. How many times did Jesus give thanks to the Father while on earth? Steve Shirley – Jesus Alive CC

<https://jesusalive.cc/times-jesus-thanked-father/>
