

### **“’Tis the Season”**

**“Make the most of every chance you get. These are desperate times!”**

*Ephesians 5:16 The Message*

**“To Be Thankful!”**

**“I always thank my God for you because of His grace given you in Christ Jesus.” 1 Corinthians 1:4**

#### **A. Thanksgiving can bring peace...**

**“Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.”**

*Philippians 4:6-7 NLT*

**“Don’t fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God’s wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It’s wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life.”**

*Philippians 4:6-7 The Message*

1. Thanksgiving and worry cannot co-exist.
2. Thanksgiving will lead to peace.
3. Thanksgiving keeps you faith-filled.

#### **B. Don’t depend on your circumstances to be thankful...**

**“Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.” 1 Thessalonians 5:18 NLT**

**“Be cheerful no matter what; pray all the time; thank God no matter what happens. This is the way God wants you who belong to Christ Jesus to live.” 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 The Message**

1. Consciously choose to be thankful, in spite of what is happening around you, it could change your health.
2. Consciously choose to be thankful, in spite of what is happening around you, it takes deliberate thought. (Think and thank come from the same root word. Thankfulness grows out of thoughtfulness. The more you think of what God has done for you, the more thankful you become!)
3. Consciously choose to be thankful, in spite of what is happening around you, you will need to change your language...from “I have to” to “I get to.”

**“It is not life’s circumstances that determine the quality of our lives but how we respond to them.” -Anonymous**

#### **C. A lack of thanksgiving can be destructive...**

**“Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn’t worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused.” Romans 1:21 NLT**

**“For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred.” 2 Timothy 3:2 NLT**

1. Thanksgiving combats a dark and confused mind.
2. Thanksgiving combats a selfish lifestyle.
3. Thanksgiving combats a bitter and resentful spirit.

#### **D. Don’t miss an opportunity to give thanks-it’s a choice...**

**“But when Daniel learned that the law had been signed, he went home and knelt down as usual in his upstairs room, with its windows open toward Jerusalem. He prayed three times a day, just as he had always done, giving thanks to his God.” Daniel 6:10 NLT**

1. It is easy to be thankful for blessings! Look around!
2. It is a bit harder to be thankful for blessings yet to come! Believe by faith!
3. It is difficult to be thankful in the midst of difficulties and trials! Stretch your belief that God can work in all circumstances.

#### **E. Ways to be thankful...**

1. Think on three good things at the end of each day.
2. Send 3 gratitude messages a week.
3. Find what is good in your day.
4. Practice positive self-talk.
5. Remember those who have blessed your life and the blessings you have received.
6. Start a gratitude journal.
7. Write a thank you letter and possibly read it face to face.
8. Make a gratitude visit.
9. Accept a gift with gratitude and pay it forward.
10. Think and pray for new ways to develop an attitude of gratitude in all of your life!

### **GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD**

**Worship Leader: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good.**

**Everyone: His love endures forever.**

**Worship Leader: Give thanks to the God of gods.**

**Everyone: His love endures forever.**

**Worship Leader: Give thanks to the LORD of lords.**

**Everyone: His love endures forever.**

**Worship Leader: Give thanks to the God of heaven.**

**Everyone: His love endures forever.**

**Worship Leader: Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name;**

**Everyone: Make known among the nations what he has done.**

**Worship Leader: Sing to him, sing praise to him;**

**Everyone: Tell of all his wonderful acts.**

**Worship Leader: Glory in his holy name;**

**Everyone: Let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.**

**Worship Leader: Look to the LORD and his strength;**

**Everyone: Seek his face always.**

**Worship Leader: Remember the wonders he has done,**

**Everyone: His miracles, and the judgments he pronounced.**

**Worship Leader: Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;**

**Everyone: Let them say among the nations, “The LORD reigns!”**

**Worship Leader: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;**

**Everyone: His love endures forever.**

**Worship Leader: Then all the people said**

**Everyone: “Amen” and “Praise the LORD.”**

**Psalms 136:1-3; 1 Chronicles 16:8-12,31,34,36b**

*Seasonal Sermon Series:*

*“’Tis the Season...”*

*“Make the most of every chance you get. These are desperate times!” Ephesians 5:16 The Message*

*A Sermon Series Focusing on the Virtues of the Season*

*November 26, 2017 – To Be Merciful!*

*December 3, 2017 – To Be Kind!*

*December 10, 2017 – To Be Generous!*

*December 17, 2017 – To Be Compassionate!*

*December 24, 2017 – To Be Full of Faith!*

*December 31, 2017 – To Be Hopeful!*