

R12.2 Thanksgiving 2021 Blog

As I was thinking on this Blog, I knew that I wanted to slant it towards what the Bible told us to be thankful for since it is that time of year. Decided to do a word search on “thanksgiving” and “rejoice” and to also consider one biblical wild card for our thoughts. I was interested in what the authors of the Bible had on their minds as they prayed during this time of giving thanks.

I could have written all the things we should be thankful for during this season. I could have written about being alert and vigil in our recognition of the infinite goodness of God. But I thought it would be good to go back and see what was written on thanksgiving by all the biblical authors.

For the record, I found 11 notations on being “Thankful to God” in the New Testament.

I found 43 notations on being “rejoiceful” in the New Testament.

These would be good for all of us to review during this season. But let us just do a sample:

****2Co 1:11** “with you also helping together by prayer for us, so that the gracious gift by many persons be the cause of **thanksgiving** through many for us”.

Thought: This is a good time to review your giving for others and for the poor and disadvantaged.

****Php 4:6** Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with **thanksgiving**, let your requests be made known to God

This is a favorite verse of mine.

Thought: Supplication means “the action of asking or begging for something earnestly or humbly.” Practice this in your prayer life during this time.

****Rom 1:21** because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, neither were **thankful**. But they became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

Thought: If we don’t practice the presence of God every minute, we stand a chance to drift away from God.

Luk 6:21 Blessed are you who hunger now, for you shall be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh.

Luk 6:22 Blessed are you when men shall hate you, and when they shall cut you off, and when they shall reproach you and shall cast out your name as evil, for the sake of the Son of Man.

Luk 6:23 **Rejoice** in that day and leap for joy. For behold, your *reward* is great in Heaven. For so their fathers did according to these things to the prophets.

Thought: Whether we are working in the marketplace or going to school, there are rewards for good performances. We are to be mindful that God has a motivational scheme for us. It is rewards in Heaven. If you don't know of it or have not studied it, I recommend you take time during this season to study it. We are to be mindful of God's graciousness to us.

Php 2:16 holding forth the Word of Life, so that I may **rejoice** with you in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain nor labored in vain.

Thought: We rejoice if God is pleased and we see evidence of that in the rewards He will give us. This is to motivate us throughout our life.

Php 4:4 **Rejoice** in the Lord always. Again I say, **Rejoice!**

Thought: We always have a reason to rejoice. We are the children of God and justified in Jesus. Who can hurt us?

Wild Card: Rom 1:21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, neither were **thankful**. But they became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

Thought: Does this mean that even if we have the Holy Spirit, if we don't thank God and glorify Him, we will lose our way in this life?

Php 2:13 For it is God who works in you both to will and **to do His good pleasure.**

Thought: Obey God and in this we will be good pleasure to Him. Obedience is most important to God and for us. We glorify God with our obedience.

A final thought for this season:

2Co 4:1 Therefore since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we do not faint.

2Co 4:2 But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness, nor adulterating the Word of God, but by the revelation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

2Co 4:3 But also if our gospel is hidden, it is hidden to those being lost,

2Co 4:4 in whom the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving ones, so that the

light of the glorious gospel of Christ (who is the image of God) should not dawn on them.

2Co 4:5 For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.

2Co 4:6 For it is God who said, "Out of darkness Light shall shine;" who shone in our hearts to give the brightness of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

2Co 4:15 For all things are for your sake, so that the superabounding grace might be made to abound through the **thanksgiving** of the greater number, to the glory of God.

Application: Do a study on the rest of times the words thankful, thanksgiving, rejoice and other words of gratitude are used in the Bible and reflect on what the biblical authors were thinking and saying to us.