

***Giving Thanks to God the  
Father in the Name of our  
Lord Jesus Christ***

Ephesians 5:18-21

August 31, 2008

# Two Main Lessons so Far...

- Thanksgiving and worship are intimately related to one another—98% of the time the words for thanksgiving appear worship is the context!
- The biblical pattern of thanksgiving is to offer thanks to God the Father through Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.

# Matthew 11:27

*“All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.”*

# John 14:6

*“I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”*

# Four More Points...

1. The command in Ephesians 5:20 is to give thanks *to God* the Father.

*We are never commanded to give thanks to others but we are 23 times commanded to give thanks to God.*

# 1 John 4:20-21

*“If anyone says, ‘I love God,’ and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.”*

# **How should a Christian go about giving thanks?**

1. Pray for eyes to see things for which to be thankful.
2. Render thanks to God.
3. Render thanks to others.

# Four More Points...

1. The command in Ephesians 5:20 is to give thanks *to God* the Father.
2. The command in Ephesians 5:20 is to give thanks to God *the Father*.

*In a sense God is the 'Father' of all but it never uses the word 'Father' in this sense (see Psalm 68:5, Is. 63:16, 64:8, Jer. 3:19, & Malachi 2:10).*

# John 8:42-44

*“If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires.”*

# How is the word 'Father' used in relation to God?

1. To describe the relationship between God and Jesus (the Gospel of John alone uses the word over 100 times in this way!)
2. To describe the relationship between God and those who believe in Jesus.

# 1 John 3:1

*“See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.”*

# Four More Points...

1. The command in Ephesians 5:20 is to give thanks *to God* the Father.
2. The command in Ephesians 5:20 is to give thanks to God *the Father*.
3. The command in Ephesians 5:20 is to give thanks to God the Father *in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ*.

# 1 John 2:23 & 5:12

*“No one who denies the Son has the Father.*

*Whoever confesses the Son has the Father*

*also...Whoever has the Son has life;*

*whoever does not have the Son of God does*

*not have life.”*

# Ephesians 1:3

*“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord  
Jesus Christ who has blessed us in Christ  
with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly  
places.”*

# Four More Points...

1. The command in Ephesians 5:20 is to give thanks *to God* the Father.
2. The command in Ephesians 5:20 is to give thanks to God *the Father*.
3. The command in Ephesians 5:20 is to give thanks to God the Father *in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ*.
4. The command in Ephesians 5:20 is to give thanks *for everything*.

# Two Interpretive Lessons:

1. Let Scripture interpret Scripture.

*No where does Scripture command or encourage us to give thanks for things God himself abhors.*

2. Be very careful with prepositions, that is, words like to, of, through, in, into, on, upon, over, for, etc.

*The word “for” in Ephesians 5:20 is “uper” and it literally means “in behalf of” or “for the sake of.” It does not necessarily imply we give thanks for a thing in itself.*

# Philippians 4:4-7

*“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”*