

**“GIVING THANKS TO GOD THE FATHER
IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST”
EPHESIANS 5:18-21
AUGUST 31, 2008**

Questions for Study and Reflection

1. Pastor Charlie said that the Bible never once commands us to give thanks to others but that it commands us 23 times to give thanks *to God*. Do you see the significance of offering our thanks *to God* rather than just in some general way? (See Psalm 136 and notice how God-focused the thanksgiving is.)
2. Although we are primarily to offer thanks to God, it's also true that as we do so we will become more thankful to others. Read Mark 12:28-34 and 1 John 4:20-21 and explain why this is so.
3. Pastor Charlie shared about how God helped him see things for which to be thankful at Perkins. Think of some kind of everyday experience you had this week and ask God to help you see things for which to be thankful in it. Write these things down and then give him thanks for them. How do you think seeing things like these will help you be thankful to others as well as to God?
4. The Bible does not refer to God as the Father of all, but it does refer to him as the Father of Jesus Christ and of those who believe in Jesus Christ. How does this fact help you understand what God is calling for in Ephesians 5:20?
5. Why does the Bible command us to give thanks “in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ”? (See 1 John 2:23 & 5:12, and if you have time, peruse the book of Ephesians to see some of what God has done for us in Christ and therefore why we ought to pray in his name.)
6. What does the Bible mean when it commands us to give thanks to God always and *for everything*? What does it not mean by the word *for*?