



# The Good News

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## ***Thanks and Perspective***

By Michael McCleary

**W**e all know that one day a year is not sufficient to praise and thank God for being the wonderful and loving God that He is to us. We know that we should be thanking Him every single day. We also must keep proper perspective when we offer thanks to God. As we are amid this pandemic in 2020, are we any less thankful now than we were this time last year? Is there any reason to be less thankful one day as opposed to another? Maintaining a proper and consistent spirit of thankfulness is crucial whether things in life are going well or if times are particularly difficult. As we thank God today and throughout this week, we need to remind ourselves why we should “give thanks always” and to do so with proper perspective on life.

**Why is it important?** God sent His Son to die for us and has blessed us with the opportunity to be saved. This alone should be sufficient reason for us to thank God continually. However, there are other aspects that we should consider as well. In **Heb. 13:15** we learn that praising God is a sacrifice, giving Him the “*fruit of our lips*”. Offering a sacrifice carries the understanding that we owe God something that we can never repay. We also find in **I Thess. 5:18** that giving thanks to God is pleasing to Him as it fulfills His will for us.

**For what are we to give God thanks?** We often sing the hymn “Count Your Blessings” which reminds us that, if we actually take the time to count all of the ways that God blesses us, we can truly find God’s hand in everything. God is deserving of thanks for the food He provides (**I Tim. 4:4**), the physical blessings He gives, including our

families (**I Thess. 5:16-18**), for giving us a second chance at living a pleasing life to Him (**I Tim. 1:12**), for the church that He has created to help us get to Heaven (**II Cor. 9:15**), and most importantly for the avenue of salvation itself (**Col. 1:12**). In every aspect of our lives, both physically and spiritually, God has provided a reason to praise and thank Him.

**When are we to give thanks?** In a word, always! We find that giving of thanks should be done while worshipping God (**Eph. 5:20**), while in prayer (**Phil. 4:6**), while among others (**Acts 2:47**), and in how we conduct ourselves at all times (**Col. 2:17**).

**How do we maintain proper perspective?** One of my favorite movies of all time is “White Christmas” starring Bing Cosby and Danny Kaye. In this movie is a scene in which Bing Cosby sings a song dealing with blessings called “Count your blessings instead of sheep”. The first stanza of this song reminds us that even in difficult times, we are still blessed:

“When I’m worried and I can’t sleep  
I count my blessings instead of sheep  
And I fall asleep counting my blessings  
When my bankroll is getting small  
I think of when I had none at all  
And I fall asleep counting my blessings”

As we count our blessings today, later this week on Thanksgiving, and every other day, let’s realize how wonderful it is to know that our Lord continues to bless us and take care of us.