

OUR THANKSGIVING LIST

1 Thessalonians 5:14-23

INTRODUCTION: We as a nation, the United States of America have set aside one day a year as Thanksgiving Day. However the Word of God has a little different idea of thanksgiving. Daniel 6:10 indicates that every day, even the bad days were days for thanksgiving for Daniel. The Bible indicates that every day should be a day of thanksgiving for all of God's sons and daughters. Colossians 3:15. Ours is not the first generation to be unthankful: Romans 1:21. Today we will make up a list of things we all can be thankful for everyday.

I. WE SHOULD BE THANKFUL FOR OUR FAITH!

Do you have a salvation story to share with others? Psalm 107:1-2. The message of the gospel can change a person's life and that of their family and friends. Romans 3:23; Romans 5:8; Romans 6:23; Romans 10:9-10, 13; Ephesians 2:8-9; 1 John 5:9-13. We need to be thankful for the stability of the foundation upon which our faith rests. 2 Timothy 2:19. Though your world may be crumbling around you, God's solid foundation will stand secure! Psalm 11:3; Isaiah 33:5-6. Our salvation is as secure as the sovereignty of our God: Matthew 16:18; 1 Corinthians 3:10-15. Our society is attacking the very foundations of our faith, but we are not the first generation to have this happen: Ephesians 1:11-14. We have a foundation that money can't buy and death can't take away from us.

II. WE SHOULD BE THANKFUL FOR OUR FAMILIES!

We must each of us be thankful for the family our Lord chose for us to be born into. None of us had perfect families, but they were exactly what we needed to become the people our God created for us to be. Ephesians 6:1-3. We need to be grateful for our mates even though none has a perfect mate: Proverbs 18:22. We need to praise the Lord for the children he allows us to bring into this world and for the mates he chooses for them and for their children: Psalm 127:3-5. We need to praise our God for our extended family in our local churches and how God puts each one together just a little different. Ephesians 4:11-16.

III. WE SHOULD BE THANKFUL FOR OUR FUTURE!

Our faith is not just for this life where our Lord has told us He will always be with us: Hebrews 13:5-6. Our Lord has given each of us that have personally received Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Savior His Holy Spirit: 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. We need to be thankful that we will be with our God in the life to follow this one! 1 Corinthians 2:9-10; Philippians 1:20-23. Paul said essentially the same thing that Matt Barancik told me after he knew he had cancer: "Heads I win and tails I win. If I live He will be with me; and if I die, I will be with Him.