

BE GRATEFUL TO GOD!

(1 Corinthians 1:4-9)

Western economists are alarmed by a growing phenomenon in first world countries like North America. They refer to it as the “paradox of unhappy growth.” Economists and sociologists wonder how could it be that though North Americans enjoy significant economic wealth and prosperity, they remain unhappy and unsatisfied. In contrast to the unbelieving world which breathes unhappiness and discontent, believers of Christ are joyful and content because they constantly give thanks to the Lord for His steadfast love that endures forever (Ps.107:1). A true disciple of Christ gives thanks in all circumstances for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus (1 Thess. 5:16). A true Christian does everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Christ (Col. 3:17). As we reflect on our passage, let’s consider three wondrous blessings that should cause us to constantly give thanks to God.

1. *Be grateful to God for His* _____.

Paul, bearing the marks of a genuine believer and a grateful pastor, constantly expressed his thanks to God for His saving grace in Christ Jesus (1 Cor. 1:4). This grace of God is His unearned, unrepayable and unmerited favor in saving sinners who deserve nothing but the wrathful judgment of God. As the founding pastor of the Corinthian church, Paul saw first-hand how the power of God’s saving grace worked in the lives of the believers in that city (1 Cor. 6:9-11). This saving grace of God is the same grace which has washed, sanctified and justified us in the name of Christ. In response, we should never fail to thank God every single day for His great blessing of salvation in our own life and the life of other believers (Psalm 103:1-4).

2. *Be grateful to God for His* _____.

Paul reminds the believers in Corinth of their spiritual riches in Christ (1 Cor. 1:5; Eph. 1:3-12). He also provides specific manifestation of the believer’s wealth through God’s gift of speech and knowledge. Everything we need to say and every truth we need to know in order to witness for Christ is given to us by God as a gift of His grace (Acts 4:31; Matt. 10:19-20; 2 Cor. 4:6; 2 Tim. 3:16). Furthermore, Paul reminds the believers that they do not lack any spiritual gift as they wait for the return of Christ (1 Cor. 1:7). God gives every believer these gifts and abilities in order to serve other Christians, to strengthen the faith of fellow believers and to help the church fulfill its mission in spreading the gospel of Christ to the lost world (Romans 12:6-8).

3. *Be grateful to God for His* _____.

As we serve God faithfully all our life while eagerly waiting our Lord’s return, God promises to sustain us and keep us strong that we may persevere in our faith until the end (1 Cor. 1:8). God’s faithfulness and trustworthiness is our divine guarantee that we will be preserved blameless and guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 1:9; 1 Thess. 5:23-24). Since it is God Himself who promised to present us faultless before His presence, it is unto Him that we should constantly give all thanks (Jude 1:24-25).
