

Thanksgiving

Introduction

(Rom.1:8; 6:17-18; 1Cor.1:4-7; 2Cor.8:16; Eph.1:16-19; Phil.1:3-6; Col.1:3-6,12-14; 1Thess.1:2-3; 2:13; 3:9-10; 2Thess.1:3-4; 2:13-15; 2Tim.1:3; Philemon 4-5)

1. The Word of God (1Thess.2:13)

“And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe” (1Thess.2:13)

1. Thank God (continuous) (1Thess.2:13)

2. The Word was preached; received and accepted (1Thess.2:13)

1. Preached

2. The word received and accepted

3. Why did they receive and accept the Word of God? (1Thess.2:13)

4. Repetition for emphasis (1Thess.2:13)

5. The uniqueness of the Word contrasted (1Thess.2:13; Gal.1:11; Rom.3:2; 2Tim.3:16; Jn.17:17,8; Ps.119:89)

1. Paul is clarifying exactly, what it is, and what it is not

2. This is what Jesus taught

3. The Trinity is involved in the declaration and application of God’s word!!!

2. Salvation through the Word (Rom.6:17-18; Col.1:12-13; 2Thess.2:13-15)

- “But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance. ¹⁸You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness” (Rom.6:17-18)
- “And giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you^[a] to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. ¹³For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins” (Col.1:12-14)
- “But we ought always to thank *God* for you, brothers and sisters loved by the *Lord*, because God chose you as firstfruits^[a] to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. ¹⁴He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁵So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the teachings^[b] we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter” (2Thess.2:13-15)

1. Thanks be to God (Rom.6:17; Col.1:12; 2Thess.2:13)

2. Our natural condition (Rom.6:17; Col.1:13)

3. Salvation

1. Salvation through God’s gospel (God’s Word) (Rom.6:17; 2Thess.2:13,14,15)

2. Salvation

1. God alone (2Thess.2:13-15; Rom.6:13; Col.1:13)

2. Through being chosen (2Thess.2:13)

1. Salvation rests on divine choice, and not, human effort (2Thess.2:13)
2. Purposeful
3. Salvation through His effective call (2Thess.2:14)
4. Salvation through being justified/sanctified (2Thess.2:13)
5. Through faith alone in the truth (2Thess.2:13)
6. Future glory (2Thess.2:14)

3. Sanctification through the Word (1Thess.1:2-3; 2Thess.1:3-4; Philemon 4-5)

"We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. ³ We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ" (1Thess.1:2-3)

"We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters,^[a] and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing. ⁴ Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring" (2Thess.1:3-4)

"I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, ⁵ because I hear about your love for all his holy people and your faith in the Lord Jesus" (Philemon 4-5)

1. Thanks to God (1Thess1:2; 2Thess.1:3; Philemon 4)

2. Biblical faith

1. Biblical faith is God's gift (Phil.1:29)
2. Biblical faith will always issue in a change of life (1Thess.1:3)
3. We are not saved by works but we are saved for good works that God prepared in advance for us to do" (Eph.2:10)
4. God pleasing faith grows and is not static (2Thess.1:3; 1Cor.3:1-3)

3. Love manifesting itself

1. The origin of Biblical love (1Jn.4:19)
2. Biblical love always issues in action
 1. Negatively speaking: The Christian does not love the world (1Jn.2:15)
 2. Positively speaking: The Christian's life of obedience (1Jn.5:2)
3. Biblical love is meant to grow as does Biblical faith (2Thess.1:3)

4. Hope in Christ underpinning endurance in the faith (1Thess.1:2-3)

1. What the Thessalonians believed about the past
2. What the Thessalonians believed about the future (1Thess.1:2-3)

4. Gifts for ministry (1Cor.1:4-7; 12:7; Rom.12:6; Phil.1:3-5)

"I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. ⁵ For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge— ⁶ God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. ⁷ Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed" (1Cor.1:4-7)

1. Every single Christian is spiritually gifted (1Cor.12:7; Rom.12:6)
2. We are gifted to serve
3. The gifts are "grace" gifts
4. Involvement in ministry (Phil.1:3-5)

Conclusion