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# The Messenger



“... How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!” Romans 10:15

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Listen to PROVE ALL THINGS on 730 AM WKRE, Sunday mornings from 8:15 to 8:30

## The Sin of Ingratitude

by Dempsey Collins  
*continued*

We can gain the victory over ingratitude if we do something very simple, i.e., remember to never forget our countless blessings. Luke 17:17 *Then Jesus answered and said, “Were there not ten cleansed? But the nine – where are they?”* Nine of the ten men healed forgot to return and give thanks. I wonder if you and I would have been among the nine? Perhaps the answer to that question can be found in our attitude at present toward God’s blessings today.

We are blessed far more than the ten leprous men ever were. Our cup not only runs over with wonderful physical blessings, but we have the infinitely gracious gift of God’s dear son. Are we returning to give God thanks today for these immeasurable blessings? How often do you thank God for healing you of the most dreaded disease of all, that is sin?

Genesis 40:23 *Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.* Though Joseph befriended the butler, he soon forgot all about Joseph’s kindness. Exodus 1:8 *Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph.* Though God, through Joseph, had greatly helped the Egyptians, a new king arose who did not know Joseph. Jer. 2:32 *Can a virgin forget her ornaments, or a bride her attire? Yet My people have forgotten Me days without number.* Israel forgot God days without number. Psalm 103 reminds us to never forget. *1 Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name. 2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget none of His benefits; 3 who pardons all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases; 4 who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with lovingkindness and compassion; 5 who satisfies your years with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle.* Forget none of His benefits. But often we do forget and we are thankful. We are thankful because we are thoughtless. We would do well to practice the words of the familiar song “count your many blessings, name them one by one – and it will surprise you what the Lord has done.”

Friend, I challenge you to actually try to count the many blessings God has provided you. There is not enough time remaining in your life to enumerate them all and there is no question that even eternity will not be sufficient to adequately thank God for the precious gift of His own son.

Blessed are those who give without remembering and those who receive without forgetting.

Another great exercise to help us overcome the sin of ingratitude is to count your blessings not your burdens. No matter how difficult things may be, there is always a reason to be thankful. We learn this lesson from the apostle Paul. Phil 1:12-14 *Now I want you to know brethren, that my circumstances have turned out for the*

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*greater progress of the gospel, 13 so that my imprisonment in the cause of Christ has become well known throughout the whole praetorian guard and to everyone else, 14 and that most of the brethren, trusting in the Lord because of my imprisonment, have far more courage to speak the word of God without fear. Though a prisoner in Rome (for preaching Christ) Paul was thankful for his circumstance, for it had provided opportunities to teach some who would otherwise not been able to hear the gospel and in addition it had emboldened the brethren to preach Christ much more than they had.*

Is there affliction? Psalm 119:67 *Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep Your word.* Psalm 119:71 *It is good for me that I was afflicted that I may learn your statutes.*

Have some trials come into your life? Thank God for the trials for without them you cannot grow unto perfection. Jas. 1:2 *Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials.*

Did someone speak evil of you because of your faith in Jesus? *Rejoice and be exceedingly glad for great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets.* Matt. 5:12

Did God not answer your prayer the way you hoped? Thank God for loving you enough to say “no” at times. Heb. 12:5-11

Have you lost house or property? Paul said, “having nothing we possess all things”. II Cor. 6:10 *as sorrowful yet always rejoicing, as poor yet making many rich, as having nothing yet possessing all things.*

Does the cooking, washing, ironing, cleaning and many other daily chores get you down? Thank God for your health, a family to work for and the many wonderful appliances that make our labor easier.

After his house was robbed the well known commentator Matthew Henry wrote these words in his diary: “Let me be thankful first, because he never robbed me before. Although he took my purse, he did not take my life. Although he took all I possessed, it was not much. It was I who was robbed, not I who robbed.”

Even if all our physical blessings are taken away, a Christian is still wealthy beyond measure. We have: the forgiveness of sins, Acts. 2:38 *Peter said to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”*

the peace that surpasses all understanding, Phil 4:7 *And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

a loving Savior who supplies all our needs, Phil 4:19 *And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.*

and a home in heaven, John 14:2 *In my Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.*

*to be continued*

## **News and Notes:**

Remember to check the prayer list for those with ongoing spiritual weaknesses and physical illnesses.

*“...Pray for one another...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” James 5:16*