

PRAYER -- LESSON FIVE

PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

I. INTRODUCTION:

- A. A sense of gratitude must be felt and expressed in our relationship with God.
  - 1. The sin of ingratitude is pointed out in Luke 17:15-18.
  - 2. Ingratitude is characteristic of the ungodly -- Rom.1:21.
- B. Prayer is one means of expressing our gratitude to God -- thus our study in this lesson: "Prayer and Thanksgiving".

II. DISCUSSION:

- A. Thanksgiving or the giving of thanks involves the following by definition:
  - 1. "...a sense of favor bestowed, a feeling of gratitude...". [Vines, Vol. II, pg. 170.]
  - 2. "...to give freely...denotes (a) gratitude, 'thankfulness', ... (b) giving of thanks, thanksgiving... [Vines, Vol. IV, pg.121.
  - 3. "An acknowledging and confessing, with gladness, the benefits and mercies which God bestows...". [Cruden's Dictionary of Bible Terms, pg. 330].
  - 4. "...the glad and free recognition of our infinite indebtedness to God, ... [A Theological Word Book of The Bible, pg. 254.] Truly we are indebted to Him. See James 1:17; Acts 17:25, 28.
- B. "Thanksgiving" is enjoined on the Christians: Eph.5:20; Phil.4:6; Col.2:7; 3:15, 17; 4:2; I Thes.5:18; I Tim.2:1. Notice these scriptures again and the scope of thanksgiving.
  - 1. WHEN?
    - a) "Always" -- Eph.5:20.
    - b) "Abounding" -- Col.2:7
    - c) "Continue stedfastly" -- Col.4:2.
  - 2. FOR WHAT?
    - a) "All things" -- Eph. 5:20.
    - b) "In everything" -- Phil.4:8.
    - c) "In everything" -- I Thes.5:18.
  - 3. FOR WHOM? "All men" -- I Tim.2:1.
- C. Some Specifics:
  - 1. For Salvation -- Rom.6;17-18; 7:25; I Tim.1:12-17.
  - 2. For victory -- I Cor.15:57; 2 Cor.2:14
  - 3. For God's "unspeakable gift" -- 2 Cor.9:15.
  - 4. For fellow Christians and their faith, etc. -- Acts 28:15; Rom.1:8; I Cor.1:4; Eph.1:16; Phil.1:3-5; Col.1:3; I Thes.1:2; 3:9; 2 Thes.1:3; Philemon 4.
  - 5. For every spiritual blessing -- Eph.1:3-14.
  - 6. For physical blessings such as food, etc. Matt.15:35; John 6:11, 23; Acts 27:35; Rom.14:6; I Cor.10:30; I Tim.4:3-5. (See and compare word

"bless" used in this connection -- Matt.14:19; Mark 8:7; Matt.26:26; Luke 24:30; I Cor.10:16.

### III. CONCLUSION:

The sense of indebtedness or gratitude we have towards God ought to be manifested in every aspect of our life -- our thoughts, words, actions. It should motivate us to present our bodies a living sacrifice -- Rom.12:1. Regardless of what we may have done or may do, we are still indebted to Him -- Luke 17:10. This we should feel as well as express in our prayers to God!