

The Chapel Family Bible Reading Program – November 27 – December 2
Doing Life Together – Thanksgiving

MONDAY: Romans 8:28; 2 Corinthians 1:11; 1 Timothy 1:14

KEY VERSE: 2 Corinthians 4:15

OBSERVATION: When we are thankful, we recognize that God exists, and we are acting on the reality of His life as the very source and means of ours. True thankfulness recognizes our total dependence on God and stems from realizing that everything going on in our lives and all we have is the product of God's sovereign control, infinite wisdom, purposes, grace, and activity

TUESDAY: Colossians 3:15,17; Psalm 95:2;

KEY VERSE: Psalms 100:4

OBSERVATION: First, the Psalms are filled with the call to give thanks. An example is Ps. 100:4 which says, "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name." Then Paul tells us in 1 Thessalonians 5:18, "In everything keep on giving thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (my translation).

WEDNESDAY: 2 Corinthians 6:1; Titus 1:15;

KEY VERSE: Hebrews 12:15

OBSERVATION: Since thankfulness is a response to the grace of God, its opposite, bitterness with its companions, complaining and grumbling, are the product of an unthankful heart that fails to properly respond to God in faith to His person, infinite wisdom, grace and purposes. Thanklessness promotes pettiness and occupation with self, people, and problems. That in turn creates depression and feelings of hopelessness because we become focused on our problems rather than on the Lord.

THURSDAY: Romans 1:9; Colossians 1:9

KEY VERSE: Ephesians 1:16

OBSERVATION: Prayer should generally be accompanied by or offered in a context of thanksgiving. The reason is perhaps found in the very nature of thanksgiving! Thanksgiving turns our eyes from our problems and ourselves to the Lord that we might focus on Him and His sovereign grace. It helps us to see life through the perspective of God's person, principles, promises, plan, provisions, and purposes. Then, as this happens, this upward focus promotes faith and courage in the face of the trying and painful situations that we all eventually face to one degree or another.

FRIDAY: 1 Thess. 5:18; Romans 8:28; James 1:2-4

KEY VERSE: Ephesians 5:20

OBSERVATION: We should always give thanks in everything and for everything. Now why? In addition to the reasons already given, it helps us to focus on the sovereignty of God and the fact that He is in control and working all things together for good regardless of how they may seem to us in our limited perspective.

SATURDAY: Romans 8:37; 1 John 5:4; Revelation 21:4

KEY VERSE: 1 Corinthians 15:57

OBSERVATION: Thankfulness is the opposite of selfishness. The selfish person says, "I deserve what comes to me. God and others ought to make me happy and fulfill my expectations." (b) Thankfulness is the opposite of murmuring and pettiness. The thankless person is one who is focused on his problems and thinks he deserves better. (c) Thankfulness is the opposite of pride. The thankless person thinks he deserves what he has or better than what he has. (d) Thankfulness is the opposite of self-trust. The thankless person tends to depend on His own merit and abilities. The thankful person, on the other hand, seeks to triumph and live by the grace of God rather than by his own ingenuity or self-sufficiency

Some of the text and concepts of this study are from Bible.org