

A Spirit of Gratitude

Romans 1:18-21; Deuteronomy 8:6-20

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I. Gratitude in Training (cf. Mk 12:29-31; 1 Thes 5:18)

II. A Diagnosis of Ingratitude

A. The Pervasiveness of Ingratitude (Romans 1:18-21)

a. *We do not glorify God as God –*

b. *We do not give thanks –*

B. The Source of Ingratitude (cf. Deuteronomy 8:6-20)

“Religion begat prosperity, and the daughter has devoured the mother.” Cotton Mather

What this warning reminds us is that the source of our ingratitude is not in our _____ but in our _____. We can be ungrateful, we are often most ungrateful, in the face of manifest blessing.

III. Gratitude in Action

A. Examples of Gratitude

B. Application

1. Personally (cf. Jeremiah 24:7)

2. Societally (cf. Psalm 117)

Whereas it is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favor— and whereas both Houses of Congress have by their joint Committee requested me to recommend to the People of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness.

Now therefore I do recommend and assign [the 4th] Thursday ... of November next to be devoted by the People of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be—

That we may then all unite in rendering unto him our sincere and humble thanks...

And also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations and beseech him to pardon our national and other transgressions...

George Washington's First Thanksgiving Day Proclamation

3. Congregationally (cf. Revelation 2:5)

IV. Conclusion