

MARANATHA MESSENGER

Weekly Newsletter of

Private Circulation Only

MARANATHA BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11 November 2018

"Present every man perfect in Christ Jesus" (Colossians 1:28)

Address: 63 Cranwell Road, Singapore 509851

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Sunday School: 10 am

Sunday English / Chinese Worship Service: 10.45 am Sunday Chinese Worship Service: 7.30 pm

Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8.00 pm

Rev Colin Wong (HP : 9665 8160); Elder Daniel Tau (HP : 9761 5415); Elder Peter Ong (HP : 9626 7045)

Give Thanks

1 Thessalonians 5:18

Introduction

In 1 Thessalonians 5:18, Paul exhorts all Christians, "In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." We are to give thanks to God not just for something, but in everything. In everything, includes good things and bad things. It is the will of God for His children to express thanks unto Him for all occasions regardless of whether the occasion brings joy or sorrow, pleasure or pain, gain or loss.

Opposite of a thankful spirit is a murmuring spirit. We can choose to be thankful in all circumstances, or we can choose to murmur when things do not go well in our lives. The former is God-pleasing but the latter attitude shows one's lack of understanding of who God is and displeases God.

Give Thanks for the Past

When we look at our past, when we were under the bondage of sin, lived in sin and blasphemed God in various ways, we thank God that we were not consumed by our sin nor struck dead by God for our sin. We thank God for the riches of His goodness and forbearance and longsuffering. For it was the goodness of God which led us to repentance, to the saving knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

We were once lovers of selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, ill-tempered, unthankful, unholy, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God, full of unbelief. Yet, God in His mercy saved us and brought us out of darkness into His marvellous light. How marvellous is the love of God! How great is His mercy upon us all!

Therefore, like the apostle Paul, when we reflect on our past lives, we ought to be thankful and give to our God all the praise and glory due unto Him (1 Timothy 1:12-15). Hallelujah! Amen!

And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful,

putting me into the ministry; Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. (1 Timothy 1:12-15)

Give Thanks for the Present

Our present situation may be pleasant or full of troubles. We may be well physically or stricken with some illness. We may be gainfully employed or callously retrenched because of economic restructuring. Our relationship with our loved ones or friends or colleagues may be harmonious or contentious. Our children may do well in exam or they may fail badly. Our service in the Lord's gospel work may be facing multitude of challenges or prospering and growing. Regardless of positives or negatives in our lives right now, we still can give thanks to God.

Once again, the apostle Paul shows in the epistle to the Philippians 4:10-13, that we can still rejoice in the Lord and be content and be thankful to God regardless of plenty or want, success or failure, have or have not, full or hungry, clothed or naked, strong or weak, in our current state. Contentment comes alongside thankfulness. One cannot be contented without being thankful in spirit. Neither can one be thankful in spirit and yet not be contented. Hallelujah! Amen! For in Christ, we can give thanks to God for all things – good and bad.

But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity. Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. (Philippians 4:10-13)

Give Thanks for the Future

The future of Christians is not a bleak one. It is one which the Old Testament saints looked forward to. In Hebrews 11:8-10, by faith, Abraham looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

The future for Christians is one of eternal rest and dwelling in the presence of God. God shall wipe away all tears from our eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain, for the former things are passed away. God shall make all things new. Sin will be completely eradicated and can molest no more. Beloved, in Revelation 22:1-5, we can see that our future in the Lord Jesus Christ is a glorious one. For this, we give thanks to God for the future, which is kept by His power. We give thanks to Him for an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away and reserved in heaven for us. Hallelujah! Amen!

And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was

there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever. (Revelation 22:1-5)

Conclusion

Dearly beloved, we must strive to, in everything, give thanks, for it is the will of our Heavenly Father. It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD. For He is good. For His mercy endureth forever. Cease not to give thanks to our Great God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

By His Grace and Mercy,
Elder Daniel Tau
11 Nov 2018.

Theme for the Quarter :

**LIVING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IN THE WORLD
(The Study of the Epistle of James)**

English and Chinese Combined Worship Service :

Rev Quek Keng Khwang
speaks on
A Private Matter : Conscience
(Scripture Text : Acts 24:22-27; Responsive Reading : 1 Timothy 1: 1-20)
Interpreter : Betrand Lam

[End of MM]