

Let Us Learn about Giving of Thanks
(1 Timothy 2:1-4)

Introduction:

1. Last Sunday morning we based our lesson on the important principle revealed in Luke 18:1 -- "*men ought always to pray, and not to faint.*"
2. According to 1 Timothy 2:1, we are to talk to God through "*supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks.*"
3. Today we are focusing our attention on "*giving of thanks.*"
4. As we do so, let us keep in mind the request made in Luke 11:1 -- "*Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.*"
5. In our lesson we are consulting 3 great teachers [David, Jesus, and Paul] with the approach: "Let us learn about giving of thanks."

Discussion:

- I. LET US LEARN ABOUT GIVING OF THANKS FROM DAVID
 - A. Some important information is revealed in Psalm 30.
 - B. In this Psalm David reflected upon various ways in which God had blessed him.
 1. On many occasions God had protected David from his enemies [David's enemies had not been able to take his life].
 2. On many occasions God had turned David's grief into joy.
 3. Throughout his life, God had allowed David to prosper.
 - C. Reflecting upon God's blessings gave David confidence that God would respond to his requests for help (vs.10).
 - D. David concluded in vs.12b by stating his intention to give thanks to God forever.
 - E. In vs.4 David called upon God's people to follow his example.
 - F. Reflecting upon God's holiness, as David did, will lead us to give thanks to Him.
- II. LET US LEARN ABOUT GIVING OF THANKS FROM JESUS
 - A. Jesus gave thanks on many occasions, including:
 1. when He fed the 5,000 (Matthew 14:15-21)
 2. when He fed the 4,000 (Matthew 15:32-38).
 - B. Jesus commended the Samaritan He healed of leprosy for "*giving Him thanks*" (Luke 17:11-19).
 - C. Giving of thanks was very important to our Lord.
 - D. Let us practice the admonition given in Hebrews 13:15.
- III. LET US LEARN ABOUT GIVING OF THANKS FROM PAUL
 - A. Paul often expressed his gratitude to the Lord.
 - B. One example is 1 Timothy 1:12-17 where he thanked the Lord for saving him and putting him into the ministry, even though he had persecuted the church.
 - C. Paul's conversion is recorded in Acts 9, 22, 26.
 1. In Acts 9:6 he asked the Lord what he needed to do.
 2. In Acts 22:16 Ananias told him what he needed to do.
 3. We read about his response in Acts 9:18.
 4. At this point he was given a new start (2 Corinthians 5:17).
 - D. In addition to being thankful, Paul taught the Lord's followers to give thanks.
 1. Ephesians 5:20
 2. Colossians 4:2
 3. 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Conclusion:

1. We have consulted David, Jesus, and Paul concerning giving of thanks.
2. Let us imitate their examples and practice their instructions.
3. According to Revelation 7:9-12, "giving of thanks" will be a special activity in heaven.