

Experiencing Christian Gratitude.

Gratitude is a virtue most worthy of our cultivation. In all our Christian life, gratitude is to be planted, watered, dressed, and harvested. Gratitude is the essence of what it means to be created, finite, fallen, redeemed, and sustained by the grace of God. Ingratitude was at the heart of the fall in the garden, and at the heart of what is fallen about us to this day. "Although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him" (Romans 1:21). Repeatedly throughout the Old Testament, especially in the Psalms, it is gratitude - giving God thanks-that is the fitting response to his gracious acts of deliverance for his people.

The apostle Paul, a man who had learned the meaning of true thanksgiving during a period of great adversity. Earlier, when he had been imprisoned in Rome, he wrote, "Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 5:19-20).

Beloved, think of it: Always giving thanks to God for all His blessings He gave us. no matter the circumstance! Thanksgiving for the Apostle Paul was not a once-a-year celebration, but a daily reality that changed his life and made him a joyful person in every situation.

Today, ingratitude and thanklessness are far too common. Children forget to thank their parents for all that they do. We take for granted the ways that others help us. We fail to thank God for His blessings.

From Genesis to Revelation, we are commanded to be thankful. In fact, thankfulness and gratitude are the natural outflowing of the sacred heart that is attuned to God.

Have you opened your heart to Jesus Christ? If not, turn to Him with a simple prayer of repentance and faith, and thank Him for what He has done for you. We should not let a day go by without thanking God for His mercy and His grace to us in Jesus Christ.

Yours in Christ +
Deacon Melvin Burton Jr.