

Give Thanks Anyway Habakkuk 3:17-19

INTRO: What are we to do when things are good and life is grand? Give thanks! What are we to do when times are hard and things are bad? Give thanks! That is what Habakkuk did and that is what Paul exhorts us to do in I Thessalonians 5:18. This verse does not tell us to give thanks for everything, but in everything.

No matter what comes our way, “we are more than conquerors through him that loved us”(Rm 8:37). It does not matter what you go through, you can thank God that He is with His elect and will never leave them (Rm 8:35, 38-39).

1. David had his detractor, yet he gave thanks to God (Psa 103:1-5, 10, 12).
2. Job gave thanks even after the tremendous loss of family and possessions (Job 1:21-22).
3. Daniel was a captive in a foreign land, yet he was thankful (Dan 6:10).

You and I, as children of God, need to be thankful for the mercies of our God are new every morning (Lam 3:22-26).

As we think of the first Thanksgiving in this country, those of the Jamestown Colony 1607 and of the Pilgrims in 1621, we are reminded to give thanks to God in everything. The early settlers of America were spiritual people believing in the Gospel of Christ.

In Habakkuk, we learn to be thankful when our provisions are slim, when we are suffering, and when we go through trials.

- I. HABAKKUK 3:17, BE THANKFUL EVEN WHEN YOUR CUP IS NOT FULL
 - A. The prophet Habakkuk knew what was coming, yet he had joy in the God of his salvation. He saw losses:
 1. A fig tree that would not blossom.
 2. Vines without fruit.
 3. Olive trees without olives.
 4. Fields that did not yield a harvest.
 5. Herds and flocks that fail.
 - B. Habakkuk says he will be thankful anyway! “In everything give thanks for this is the will of God...” (I Thes 5:18).
 - C. No matter what changes in your life, there is one who is consistent, one who never changes. Be thankful for Him.

1. Wealth and health may change.
2. God does not change:
 - a. Malachi 3:6
 - b. Hebrews 13:8.

II. HABAKKUK 3:18, BE THANKFUL FOR HIS DELIVERANCE

- A. Notice the opening word of this verse, "Yet." In the midst of the storms of life, we need to be thankful. There is one who can say peace be still to the storms.
- B. We are to joy in the God of our salvation.
 1. Salvation means deliverance and eternal life:
 - a. God promises eternal life to the believer; give thanks (Titus 1:2; Jn 3:18, 36).
 - b. Salvation means passing from death to life (Jn 5:24).
 2. You and I as believers are not limited to these few years of tears down here.
 - a. Heaven is promised (Jn 14:1-6).
 - b. Jesus is coming to take us out of here, to take us home (I Thes 4:13-18).

III. HABAKKUK 3:19, BE THANKFUL WE ARE MORE THAN CONQUERORS

- A. The prophet says, "The Lord is my strength...."
 1. Psalm 27:1
 2. Phil 4:13
- B. The spiritual feet of believers are swift and graceful.
 1. The believer's feet are beautiful feet (Rm 10:15).
 2. We will fly above our trials (Isa 40:31).
- C. The child of God has valleys, but higher ground spiritually is promised. "Lord plant my feet on higher ground."

CONCLUSION: We are to be thankful for He truly does load us down with benefits.

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