

1 Thessalonians: Always Give Thanks

1 Chronicles 16:7-11 ❖ 1 Thessalonians 5:18

"All my life, You have been faithful.
All my life, You have been so, so good.
With every breath that I am able,
I will sing of the goodness of God."
(Bethel Music)

An Attitude of Gratitude

I have been traveling up and down Hwy 78 in North Mississippi for over 50 years, and for as long as I can remember, there has been an old _____ near the Byhalia exit beside a sign that reads "_____ Teller." I have often wondered two things: how much money the person charges to convince someone he or she knows what only _____ knows and how many people ask themselves why the fortune _____ hasn't known where to buy a winning _____ ticket in order to buy a better place to _____.

In Acts 16 Paul and his colleague Silas encounter a _____ teller in Philippi. She was a slave who was possessed by a _____, and "she earned a great deal of _____ for her owners" (v. 16). This girl recognized that Paul and Silas were the ones who were truly in _____ with God. For many days, she followed them shouting, "These men are telling you the way to be _____" (v. 17).

Finally Paul couldn't take it anymore. He turned around and said to the _____, "In the name of Jesus Christ, I _____ you to come _____ of her!" At that _____ the spirit left her. Her _____ owners seized Paul and Silas and brought them before the magistrates. Playing the _____ card, they said, "These men are _____ and are throwing our city into an uproar by advocating customs unlawful for us _____ to accept or practice." (vv. 18-21)

The _____ joined in the attack, and the authorities ordered Paul and Silas to be _____, severely _____ and thrown into _____. The jailer put them in the inner _____ and fastened their feet in the _____. (vv. 22-24)

About midnight Paul and Silas were _____ and _____ hymns to God. All the other prisoners were _____ to them.

_____ there was such a violent _____ that the foundations of the prison were shaken. All the prison _____ flew open, and everybody's _____ came loose. The jailer woke up and drew his _____ to kill himself, because he thought the prisoners had _____. But Paul shouted, "Don't _____ yourself! We are all _____!" (vv. 25-28)

The jailer called for _____, rushed in and fell _____ before Paul and Silas and asked, "What must I do to be _____?" They replied, "_____ in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved - you and your _____." (vv. 29-31)

At that hour of the night, the jailer took them and _____ their wounds. Then, immediately, he _____ all his _____ were baptized.

_____ God in each and every situation we find ourselves transforms our _____.

"For" or "In"?

Paul did not tell the Christians in Thessalonica to "give thanks _____ all circumstances." Instead, he wrote, "give thanks _____ all circumstances, for this is God's _____ for you in Christ Jesus" (v. 18).

Many circumstances in which we find ourselves are _____ ones we are inclined to give _____ for. So what could God mean by telling us it "is _____ will for us to give thanks in _____ circumstances"?

It is possible for Christians to always have an _____ of gratitude, because as Paul wrote in Romans 8:28, "We know that in _____ things God works for the _____ of those who love Him, who have been called according to His _____." Paul and Silas _____ that - even when they found themselves in _____.

Takeaway

Do you have an attitude of _____? "Prisoners" are _____.

Tell someone today about a time when you _____ God for doing something for you that was totally _____.

"Give _____ to the LORD. Look to the LORD and His _____; seek His face _____" (1 Chronicles 16:8, 11).

