

**Be Ye Thankful** – Asaolu O. S. ([asaolu@yahoo.com](mailto:asaolu@yahoo.com))

Sermon Presented at church of Christ, UNILAG, Lagos, Nigeria on 18/11/2013

**Text:** “And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.” - *Colossians 3:15*

**Introduction: (Sing ‘I will enter His gates with thanksgiving in my heart’ –Ps 100:4)**

- This sermon is to encourage us to be appreciative, to always show gratitude to God and even unto others. There is much to be thankful for if only you take a moment to “Count your Blessings!”
- Yorubas say ‘Eni to ba monu ro, a mope da’ –meaning he who can reflect reasonably will know it is imperative to be appreciative.
- We need to condescend to a low estate by not being high-minded, he who has a great sense of self and has high expectations may often be disappointed or disgruntled rather than thankful.
- The Lord does NOT owe you anything so acknowledge that what you are or have are but gifts which He has graciously bestowed.

**Facts:**

1. We should be thankful for life, provisions, protection and the providence of God. We need to do this daily and praise God thankfully for who he is -Romans 1:18-22, Acts 17:24-28.
2. Harvest was a feast of firstfruits under the law of Moses but various Countries/Denominations have their own Thanksgiving doctrines today. Christians under the NT are to be thankful always -Ephesians 5:4,20, Philippians 4:6, 1 Timothy 2:1
3. One's achievements or accumulations are not by his or her power: “*For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?*” -1 Corinthians 4:7  
Remember the rich fool in Luke 12:15-20, Nebuchadnezzar in Dan 4:30-34 and Herod in Acts 12:20-23
4. Every man has his gift or talent from God, we are not blessed equally in every way but are surely blessed differently in many ways. As with the human body, so it is with society and with the church. Be thankful for your role and supply your function -1 Cor 12:22-27, Eph 4:16
5. When we show appreciation, we receive more [Eni ba moore, a ri miran gba!] e.g. the thankful one out of the ten lepers who encountered Jesus (Lk17:12-19) and the industrious servant in the parable of the talents (Mt 25:19-29)
6. We should not as a result of greed, begrudge God or man when they in faithfulness, fulfill promises or agreements, rather we should be satisfied with receiving what is due to us -Mt 20:11-16.
7. Murmuring and grumbling against God is sinful and we are warned against such -1 Cor 10:10-14 [Exo 16:7-8, Num 14:27-32]

**Conclusions:**

We need to constantly show our appreciation to God and even unto others who assist us in one way or another. God is the giver of life and every good gift. Recall that the blessing of the Lord maketh rich and he adds no sorrow unto it –Prov 10:22. Delay is not denial, it is God that promotes and He makes all things beautiful in his time. Things will always work out eventually for those who allow him to handle the situation (Rm 8:28). We should thank him personally and not by proxy, in love and humility. We equally should esteem and be grateful for those who lead us spiritually in order to encourage them -1 Thess 5:12-13.

1 Corinthians 15:57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 2:14 Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.

2 Corinthians 9:15 Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.

Eph 1:16 Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;

Eph 5:4 Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.

Ephesians 5:20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

Philippians 4:6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

Colossians 1:3 We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,

Colossians 1:12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

Colossians 3:17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

Colossians 4:2 Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;

1 Thessalonians 5:18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Hebrews 13:15 By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

**(Sing 'Saying Amen, blessings and glory' –Rev 7:12)**