**Be Thankful!**

**Introduction**

1. In all aspects of our lives God demands and expects us to be thankful.
2. He deserves gratitude for all that He has done and will do.
3. He has required this in His wisdom because Unthankfulness inevitably leads to all unrighteousness and destruction.
4. A careful look at the concept of thankfulness along with it's antonym will unveil its importance in our lives.
5. God expects us to be thankful.

A. In song.

* + - Hebrews 13:15; Colossians 3:16; Ephesians 5:19-20

B. In prayer.

* + - Philippians 4:6; Colossians 4:2

C. In service.

* + - Psalm 116:16-17

D. In everything we do.

* + - Colossians 3:17; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
1. He deserves gratitude!

A. He provides.

* + - James 1:17; Matthew 6:31-33

B. He saves.

* + - Ephesians 1:3; 2:8; Romans 6:23

C. He provides a safe haven.

* + - Romans 8:37-39; Psalm 23:4
1. Unthankfulness leads to destruction.

A. Thankfulness requires remembrance.

* + - Psalm 103:1-5
			* Remembering all that God has done for you.
		- After a declaration of thanks there is a call to remembrance of what God has done.
			* Psalm 92:1-2, 4; 95:1-7; 100:4-5

B. Unthankfulness is caused by forgetting what God has done. This leads to sins of pride.

* + - Deuteronomy 8:11-17
			* Israel is told to remember how God had provided for them lest they become haughty.
			* Remembrance of what God had done allows their recognition of a dependency upon Him and not themselves.
			* vs. 18-20 - If they forgot God it would lead to serving false gods and they would be destroyed. Unthankfulness leads to disobedience to God and idolatry.
		- Romans 1:18-21
			* The gentiles described here display a willfull ignorance.
			* God revealed Himself in His creation and His blessings He has poured out on them, but they suppressed that truth by sinning while knowing God deserved their obedience.
			* vs. 22-23 - Like Israel, their Unthankfulness lead to idolatry.
			* vs. 24-32 - *"God gave them up."*
				+ God does not force obedience. We have free will. If we want to do something ungodly God will not get in our way. However, the consequences remain.

*"uncleanness"* - purpose of the body is to glorify God. They used it to serve themselves in shameful, unnatural ways.

*"vile passions"* - These passions are shameful and dishonorable to engage in. They are against nature altogether!

*"debased mind"* - Means "not standing the test, i.e. Failing, then being rejected." Because of their rejection of God they could no longer discern between good and evil. God had tested them and they failed, so he gave them over to what they preferred.

vs. 32 - This they did knowing their impending doom. Their approval for evil doing not only is for themselves but anyone who practices such.

* + All of this finds its genesis in forgetting God and being unthankful for what He has done and has promised to do.

**Conclusion**

1. God has, in part, established His expectations of us on our thankfulness to Him.
2. Everything we do should be done with thanksgiving.
3. God certainly deserves our Thanksgiving.
4. Unthankfulness will tear down and diminish our lives to the point of eternal separation from God in destruction.
5. We must always be thankful!