



Trinity's Desert Voice

"May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus."

(Romans 15:5)

Why should we be thankful?

It is easy to become discouraged and even argue that there is very little to be thankful for in a world that offers heartache and sadness.

The Bible, on the other hand, offers clear, beneficial and historical thinking on this subject that will redirect our focus and understanding of why and where we should give thanks.

This type of thanksgiving stems from a profound appreciation of the grace of God that comes to us through the sacrificial life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The original Greek New Testament word translated "thanksgiving" (*eucharistia*), literally means "good grace." Our thanksgiving is, therefore, a joyful response of God-given faith and insight into what our new life in the power of Christ's resurrection means. It transcends persecution and privation and is encouraged and instructed in the biblical teaching of Philippians 4:6-7:

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

This is the kind of thankfulness King David exhibited in the 69th Psalm. He thanked the Lord even though there was much to be worried about. At verse 3 he declares, "I am

worn out calling for help; my throat is parched. My eyes fail, looking for my God." That, of course, doesn't sound like thanksgiving at all. However, at verses 29-30 David relies on the Lord proclaiming, "I am in pain and distress; may your salvation, O God, protect me. I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving." For David, God's free gift of eternal salvation by grace made all the difference in overcoming the terrible circumstance he faced.

May our Lord bless you with His grace as you grow in His grace! After all, we have much to be thankful for as John 1:16 declares, "From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another." Pastor Smith