

# **A Heart of Thanksgiving**

**Defining Our Terms**

# Defining Our Terms

- There is a cluster of related words used throughout the Bible to express the notion of thanksgiving.
- Thank—occurs 27 times in 26 verses in the KJB. This English word serves as the root word for all the other related words so it is a critical word to understand. *Webster's 1828 Dictionary* defines “thank” as: “To express **gratitude** for a favor; to make acknowledgments to one for kindness bestowed.”
  - Romans 1:8 (1191)—“I thank my God”
- Thanks—occurs 73 times in 71 verses in the KJB.
- *Webster's 1828 Dictionary* defines “thanks” as: “generally in the plural. Expression of **gratitude**; an acknowledgment made to express a sense of favor or kindness received. **Gratitude is the feeling or sentiment excited by kindness; thanks are the expression of that sentiment.** Thanks be to God, who giveth us the victory. 1 Cor.15. He took bread and gave thanks to God. Acts.27.”

# Defining Our Terms

- As the dictionary indicates, “thanks” is a noun and it denotes action. Therefore, in the Bible we find the words give, gave, giving attached to the word “thanks.”
  - Psalm 106:1 (651)—“give thanks”
  - Daniel 6:10 (908)—“gave thanks”
  - Mark 14:23 (1065)—“had given thanks”
  - I Corinthians 14:6 (1224)—“giving of thanks”
  - I Corinthians 14:7—“givest thanks”
  - II Corinthians 1:11 (1230)—“thanks may be given”
- “Thanks” is something that needs to be given as an expression of the feeling of gratitude.
- Thanked—occurs 3 times in 3 verses in the KJB. Denotes the one who receives expressions of **gratitude** from another. “Having received expression of gratitude.” (*Webster’s 1828*)
  - Acts 28:15 (1188)—“he thanked God”
  - Romans 6:17 (1198)—“God be thanked”

# Defining Our Terms

- Thankful—occurs 3 times in 3 verses in the KJB. “**Grateful**; impressed with a sense of kindness received, and ready to acknowledge it. The Lord's supper is to be celebrated with a thankful remembrance of his sufferings and death.” (*Webster's 1828*)
  - Romans 1:21 (1192)—“neither were thankful”
  - Colossians 3:15 (1265)—“be ye thankful”
- Thankfulness—occurs 1 time in 1 verse in the KJB. “Expression of **gratitude**; acknowledgment of a favor. 1) **Gratitude**; a lively sense of good received.” (*Webster's 1828*)
  - Acts 24:3 (1182)—“with all thankfulness”
- Thanksgiving—occurs 28 times in 27 verses in the KJB. “Rendering thanks for good received. 1) The act of rendering thanks or **expressing gratitude** for favors or mercies or good.” (*Webster's 1828 Dictionary*)
  - Psalm 26:7 (611)—“publish with the voice of thanksgiving”
  - Isaiah 51:3 (758)—“thanksgiving, and the voice of melody”
  - II Corinthians 4:15 (1232)—“thanksgiving”
  - II Corinthians 9:11—“thanksgiving”

# Defining Our Terms

- Thankworthy—occurs 1 time in 1 verse in the KJB.
  - I Peter 2:19 (1319)—“thankworthy”
- Unthankful—occurs 2 times in 2 verses in the KJB. “Not thankful; **ungrateful**; not making acknowledgments for good received.” (*Webster’s 1828*)
  - Luke 6:35 (1080)—“unthankful and to the evil”
  - II Timothy 3:2 (1281)—“unthankful”
- Please note the connection in these verses between a lack of thankfulness/gratitude and evil. *Webster’s 1828 Dictionary* defines the state of “unthankfulness” as: “Neglect or omission of acknowledgment for good received; want of a sense of kindness or benefits; **ingratitude. Immoderate favors breed first unthankfulness, and afterwards hate.**”

# Defining Our Terms

- Ungrateful—“1) Not grateful; **not feeling thankful for favors**. 2) Not making returns, or making ill returns for kindness. 3) Making no returns for culture; as an ungrateful soil. 4) Unpleasing; unacceptable. Harsh sounds are ungrateful to the ear.” (*Webster’s 1828*)
- Ungratefulness—“1) Ingratitude; want of due feelings of kindness for favors received; ill return for good. 2) Disagreeableness; unpleasing quality.” (*Webster’s 1828*)

# Defining Our Terms

- Throughout this study I have bolded a key synonym for “thank” and all its related descriptors in each definition, the word “gratitude.” For the sake of completeness we need to define “gratitude” and its related descriptors.
- Gratitude—“An emotion of the heart, excited by a favor or benefit received; a sentiment of kindness or good will towards a benefactor; **thankfulness**. Gratitude is an agreeable emotion, consisting in or accompanied with good will to a benefactor, and a disposition to make a suitable return of benefits or services, or when no return can be made, with a desire to see the benefactor prosperous and happy. Gratitude is a virtue of the highest excellence, as it implies a feeling and generous heart, and a proper sense of duty.” (*Webster’s 1828*)
- Ingratitude—“1) Want of gratitude or sentiments of kindness for favors received; insensibility to favors, and want of a disposition to repay them; **unthankfulness**. 2) Retribution of evil for good.” (*Webster’s 1828*)

# Conclusion

- Luke 6:35 (1080)—notice the connection between unthankfulness, ingratitude, and evil.
- II Timothy 3:1-7 (1281)—what would you call the person described in these verses? I would call them evil. Notice that tucked within this description of the evil that will comprise the last days of the body of Christ is “unthankfulness.”
- In our next study we will demonstrate from the Word of God how unthankfulness and ingratitude are the seedbed of sin.