

# Thanksgiving is Every Day for Christians

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## ➤ Intro:

- **USA:** observed Thanksgiving last week, Thursday — secular holiday, good for our nation to give thanks
  - 1621 the Plymouth colonists and Indians shared an autumn harvest feast which is known as the first Thanksgiving
- **Christians:** every day is thanksgiving - a day of giving thanks

## ➤ What is “thanksgiving” in a Christian’s life?

- **charis** (noun), Greek word translated *grace, thanks*
  - **1 Tim. 1:12** - *charis* in this sense, to have gratitude toward another for what he has done
- - **Eph. 2:5, 7, 8** saved by grace (*charis*), save Greek word, God’s kind disposition of mind to save us, yet while we were in sin (to do that for us that we do not deserve) — as a result we are thankful and offer up thanks
- - **Col. 3:16** sing with grace (*charis*) in your hearts
  - **KJ:** grace in your hearts
  - **NASB:** thankfulness in your hearts
  - **NIV:** gratitude in your hearts
  - **we give thanks to God, thanksgiving because of the gratitude we have in our hearts for God and all He’s done for us, esp, saving us from sin**
- - **eucharistia** (noun), **eucharisteo** (verb) - two Greek words translated *thanks, give thanks, gave thanks, thanksgiving, etc.*
  - **note: charis in both words**
    - **thankfulness, giving thanks, a result of gratitude** toward God because of what He’s done - salvation, God’s blessings, etc.
    - **if we are not thankful, have to change our attitude toward God**

## ➤ Bible examples: Jesus, apostles, heavenly hosts

- **Jesus:**
  - **Jn. 11:41** Jesus praying to God before raising Lazarus from the dead
- **apostle Paul:**
  - **Eph. 1:16** Paul giving thanks for brethren when praying for them
- **heaven:**
  - **Rev. 7:9-12** saints and angels and 24 elders in heaven, thanksgiving for salvation
  - **we should give thanks while upon earth as Jesus did / we will give thanks in heaven, with angels and saints**

➤ **How do we give thanks to God?**

- **prayer:** - few samples of Scriptures below
    - **1 Tim. 4:4-5** give thanks for **food** (*eucharistia* translated gratefully and gratitude)
      - **Jn. 6:11** e.g., **Jesus** feeding the 5,000 — **if Jesus gave thanks for food, we should too**
  - - **Col. 1:12** give thanks for our **salvation**
  - - **Col. 4:2** remaining **vigilant, alert, watching out for soul**
  - - **Eph. 5:20** give **thanks for all things in name of Jesus** — **thanks for all, Jesus' name is authority by which offered to God**
  - - **choose righteousness over sin:**
    - **Eph. 5:4** not sin, but thanks to God — **focused on God, His gifts, expressing gratitude - not sin**
      - **stats.: Associated Press, "Poll: Americans See, Hear More Profanity"** — reflects lack of thankfulness
  - - **challenge: be so thankful to God, will choose righteousness over sin** - cannot be thankful for Christ's crucifixion and simultaneously engage in sin — **Matt. 15:15-20** actions reflect heart - e.g., thankful
    - **secular illus.: Be So Grateful You'll Show it through Thanksgiving** - passengers give seats to service men
- **Thankful hearts are obedient and worshipful**
  - **Lk. 17:11-19** 10 lepers cleansed, 1 thankful and returns to offer thanks by worshiping - to worship is to make obeisance, obey — **vs. 16** giving thanks
    - **today, everyone who is thankful** to God (salvation, Jesus' sacrifice on cross) will **worship** in spirit and truth (Jn. 4:24), **rendering obedience** (Heb. 5:9)
  - **illus.: Lord's Supper: in part, expresses our thanks for Christ's sacrifice - worship, proclaim His death**
- - **1 Cor. 11:23-24a** instituting Lord's Supper **Jesus gave thanks**, Paul's instructions **we give thanks**
  - **cannot partake of Supper without thankfulness in heart**, discerning the Lord's body (1 Cor. 11:29)
    - **illus.: Justin Martyr**, early second century [A.D. 110-165], writing regarding Lord's Supper
      - "And this food is called among us Eucharistia [the Eucharist], of which no one is allowed to partake but the man who believes that the things which we teach are true, and who has been washed with the washing that is for the remission of sins, and unto regeneration, and who is so living as Christ enjoined."
      - **note: Justin referred to the Lord's Supper as the *eucharist* in Greek**, noun denoting giving of thanks
      - **reflects attitude** we should have in partaking the Lord's Supper, **not a doctrinal statement**
- **Summary / Inv.**
  - **USA:** observed Thanksgiving last week, Thursday — secular holiday, good for our nation to give thanks
    - 1621 the Plymouth colonists and Indians shared an autumn harvest feast which is known as the first Thanksgiving
  - **Christians:** every day is thanksgiving - a day of giving thanks
  - **inv.:**
    - **How are you showing God** that you are thankful? — actions, words, prayers, obedience, care for your soul
    - **If you're not a Christian**, will you show your thankfulness to God by obeying the gospel today?