

My God, I Thank Thee (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

- I. The Price of Being Unthankful (Romans 1:18-25)
 - A. It leads to trading the truth about God for a lie.
 - B. It leads to dishonoring one's body through impurity that comes from a lustful heart.
 - C. It leads to self-worship.
 - D. It leads to idolatry.
 - E. It leads to denying the very obvious truths about God that can be perceived in creation.
 - F. It leads to God's wrath against unrighteousness.
- II. Living A Life of Thankfulness (*My God, I Thank Thee, Who Hast Made*, Adelaide Anne Proctor, 1800's)
 - A. "My God, I thank thee, who hast made the earth so bright, so full of splendor and of joy, beauty and light; so many glorious things are here, noble and right."
 1. Genesis 1:31
 2. Spend time being amazed by the beauty and wonder of God's creation and thank Him for it.
 - B. "I thank Thee, too, that Thou hast made joy to abound; so many gentle thoughts and deeds circling us round, that in the darkest spot of Earth some love is found."
 1. Psalm 139:7-12
 2. Remind yourself that no matter what atrocious things are happening in this life, God's presence is still experienced here, as He works in and through the hearts of men to do good.
 - C. "I thank Thee more that all our joy is touched with pain, that shadows fall on brightest hours, that thorns remain; so that Earth's bliss may be our guide, and not our chain."
 1. 2 Corinthians 12:7-10
 2. Allow pain to drive you closer to God and thank Him for giving you the strength to endure.
 - D. "For Thou who knowest, Lord, how soon our weak heart clings, hast given us joys, tender and true, yet all with wings; so that we see gleaming on high Diviner things."
 1. James 1:9-12; 1 Timothy 6:17-19
 2. Share and give up what you have to others, thanking God that the joyful loss of earthly possessions makes for the storing up of heavenly treasure.
 - E. "I thank Thee, Lord, that Thou hast kept the best in store; we have enough, yet not too much to long for more: a yearning for a deeper peace not known before."
 1. Ecclesiastes 3:1-11
 2. Acknowledge the ultimate dissatisfaction with temporary pleasures of this life and thank God that He has reserved infinitely greater joys to be experienced during eternal life.
 - F. "I thank Thee, Lord, that here our souls though amply blessed, can never find, although they seek a perfect rest; nor ever shall, until they lean on Jesus' breast."
 1. Romans 8:14-25; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
 2. Acknowledge that you are seeking peace you cannot find here and thank God that He has promised to bring you to a place where it will be yours forever.