



Always Thankful Bible Study

[Please provide: copies of this study, Bibles, musical accompaniment, and hymnals for attendees]

Opening prayer: Dear Lord God, heavenly Father, send Your Holy Spirit to open our hearts and eyes so that we may see how we are to be “always thankful.” Show us in Your Word the way to a truly thankful heart. Amen.

The Apostle Paul tells us to give thanks in all circumstances (1 Thessalonians 5:18). It is easy to give God thanks for His blessings and for sending His son, Jesus to die for our sins. But can you honestly say that you give thanks in all of your circumstances, good or bad?

There are three very good reasons to be “Always Thankful” in all our circumstances.

1. Be “Always Thankful” to our Creator Who has Made the Heavens, the Earth, and You

Read Isaiah 40:28–31.

Who is the Lord? He is the _____, the _____ of the _____ of the earth.

What other characteristics of God do you find in these verses? _____

What does God supply to the weary and the weak? _____

When was the last time you went out at night to look into the sky without any light pollution and saw how vast the stars are? God knows the name of each of them and holds them in their places. Man has only begun to discover the conditions for life to exist and that there is only one planet like the earth suitable for us. God placed the earth right where it needed to be for us to peer out and marvel at the vastness of His creation.

What wonders of this world make you stop and say, “This could only be the hand of God”? _____

Read Romans 3:19–20. Even with all creation surrounding us, we still have problems with being “Always Thankful.” That problem is called sin. We have a problem living by the law that God created for the world.

What is the purpose of the Law? _____

Read Romans 3:23; 6:23 and 1 John 1:8.

Who has sinned? _____

What is the wages of our sin? _____

What if you say you have no sin? _____

2. Be “Always Thankful” for the Cross of Christ

We are sinners. Yet, God loves us. Because of His great love for us, He sent His one and only Son, Jesus Christ, to pay the price we could not pay to be redeemed from sin.

Read Mark 10:45 and Hebrews 10:10 to complete this sentence: Jesus came to be the _____ for many and the sacrifice _____ for _____.

Read Hebrews 4:15 and 1 John 4:10 to complete this sentence: Jesus was _____ sin to be the _____ for our sins. Through His perfect life and His death for our sins, Jesus satisfied God’s demands for the perfect keeping of His Law and for the payment required for our sinful disobedience.

Read Hebrews 12:2 to complete this sentence: Jesus _____ the _____ of the cross.

Read John 3:16 and John 1:12–13 to complete this sentence: So that by _____ in Him we might have _____ and be called the _____ of God.

All our debts have been paid by Jesus our Savior! What a reason to be “always thankful!” As Colossians 2:13–14 says, *And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.* Because of what Jesus our Savior did for us on the cross, and because He rose from the dead, we can be “always thankful” as the Holy Spirit leads us to always keep the cross of Christ before us.

In this season of thankfulness as you reflect on what Jesus did for you on the cross, for what in particular would you like to thank Him? Write your thoughts in the form of a “thank you” note.
Dear Jesus, my risen Savior ... _____

3. Be “Always Thankful” in Trials—They Serve a Purpose

It’s been said that when God wants you to grow, He makes you uncomfortable. Therefore, we can give thanks in all our circumstances because God is love and always has our best interest in mind. We can consider it joy in various trials because God wants us to grow.

Read James 1:2–3. What does the testing of your faith produce? _____

What does it mean to be *steadfast*? _____

Read 1 Peter 1:5–7. What purpose do the trials in our lives serve? _____

Read 1 Peter 4:12–13. Not only are we to give thanks in all circumstances but we are to *rejoice* in our trials. Trials are tough. How can we rejoice in them? _____

Recall a trial you've faced. From this experience, for what can you thank God? _____

Read Romans 8:28. What reassurance do you find here? _____

Read the following verses. What does each one tell you about God?

Isaiah 54:10: _____

Hebrews 13:5b: _____

1 Corinthians 1:9: _____

How do these descriptions of who God is and how He feels about you give you reason to be thankful in all circumstances? _____

What benefits are found from being with someone who is thankful in difficult circumstances? _____

Read each proverb below and complete the statements.

Proverbs 15:13: A glad heart makes a _____.

Proverbs 15:15: The cheerful of heart has a _____.

Proverbs 17:22: A joyful heart is _____.

How do we achieve an attitude of thankfulness? _____

Holy Scripture provides us with examples of individuals who in trying times, praised and thanked God. Though he suffered at the hands of King Saul as a young man and later as Israel's king, David gave thanks to God.

Read 1 Chronicles 16:8–30. What did David say to make known (v. 8)? _____

What did David say the people (including us) are to tell about (vv. 9, 23)? _____

What are we to remember (vv. 12, 15)? _____

What are we to declare (v. 24)? _____

According to verses 28–30 how else are we to give thanks to God? _____

Read Psalm 28:6–7. What particular quality of God do these verses mention for which we can be “always thankful?” _____

Knowing that God is almighty, how does this affect your thankful attitude? _____

Closing prayer: Dear Lord God, forgive us when we are not thankful in all things. Through Your Holy Spirit, open our eyes to see Your wondrous works in our lives and fill our hearts with thanksgiving so that we may now give thanks in all our circumstances. Help us always to remember You are love and You will never leave us nor forsake us. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen

Sing: “Rise, Shine You People,” LSB 825

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