

Wednesday's Wisdom

a weekly short note from Mike Minear

"Expressing Thankfulness"

Billy Joe Thrasher

"Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ...."
(Eph. 5:20)

The lack of gratitude in our own nation is astounding. We have so much for which to be thankful and yet we seem to forget God. Paul stated in Ephesians 5:20 that we should be thankful for everything and that God should receive this expression of thanks. We indeed have much to be thank for, let me suggest a few:

1). **Our Health...** *"Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you"*
(3 John 2).

2). **Our Earthly Family ...** What a joy to have a strong family and how thankful we should be that we are so blessed. Read Ephesians 5:20, 22-6:4.

3). **Our Spiritual Family ...** Paul cried when he left the saints in Ephesus (Acts 20:17-37)> To the Christians at Philippi he wrote, "I thank God ever time I remember you" (Phil. 1:3; NIV).

4). **Our Freedom ...** We are free because of God's grace. "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people" (Proverbs 14:34)

5). **Our Material Blessings...**We have more material goods than any other nation before us and possibly any in the future. We do not need more, we need to be thankful for what we have! Read Mt. 6:25-34

6). **Our Friends ...** Many have very dear friends who are great encouragers and offer loving support in times of grief. May we

always be thankful for good friends. Read 1 John 4:7, 11 and John 15:13

When we are thankful, we express our need for God and our dependence upon Him and our love for Him. As as we do this, we grow even more aware that *"in Him we live and move and exist"* (Acts 17:28).

But thanksgiving is more than an **expression**, we must **feel** grateful. This strikes at the heart of a Christian's motive. Paul says, "As you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him..overflowing with gratitude" (Colossians 2:6-7) We must always, not just seasonally, thank God for all the gospel has accomplished. If we can attain this attitude of heart, then indeed the "fruit of our lips" (Hebrews 13:15) and the devoted life "in word and deed" will abound with heart-felt thanksgiving to God.