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THANKSGIVING

God's verdict upon the pagan world is that **"they are without excuse. For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or GIVE THANKS"** (Romans 1:20,21).

The psalmist, on the other hand, declares: **"It is good to GIVE THANKS to the LORD, and to sing praises to Your name, O Most High; to declare Your lovingkindness in the morning, and Your faithfulness by night"** (Psalm 92:1,2).

Believers in Christ today have even more to be thankful for than did the psalmist, for we can rejoice in what God has done for us through Christ and His redeeming work. Thus the apostle Paul, by divine inspiration, speaks of...

"GIVING THANKS to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the

inheritance of the saints in Light. For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in Whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins" (Colossians 1:12-14).

It is because of this 'deliverance' that the humblest believer in Christ can say with Paul: **"THANKS be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place. For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing"** (2 Corinthians 2:14,15) and **"THANKS be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ"** (1 Corinthians 15:57).

How appropriate, then, are the following exhortations in bad and good times:

"In everything GIVE THANKS; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thessalonians 5:18) and **"Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that GIVE THANKS to His name"** (Hebrews 13:15).

"For all things are for your sakes, so that the grace which is spreading to more and more people may cause the GIVING OF THANKS to abound to the glory of God." (2 Corinthians 4:15).

Most of all, **"THANKS be to God for His indescribable gift"**, our Lord Jesus Christ! (2 Corinthians 9:15).

(Source: 'Two Minutes with the Bible, November 23rd' by C.R. Stam)