

The Gospel Herald

“As the truth is in Jesus” (Ephesians 4:21)

For The LORD’S PILGRIMS, STRANGERS & SOJOURNERS

by
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*“In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God
in Christ Jesus concerning you”*

I Thess. 5:18

One might ask, “give thanks for ALL things?” How can I give thanks for events and things which bring with grief and sorrow? Are grief and sorrow determined and brought about by our sovereign God in whom we have been caused to believe; Christ? May I with all humility answer this question with, “YES?”

Think with me and consider this: Are not we more often the farthest from God when all things are going well, our health is good, our hearts and minds are content with life in this mortal realm? I have found experientially, over the past 45 years as a believer in Christ Jesus, that this is in most cases truth. My prayer life and its occasions seem to be less when I am preoccupied with life, in general free of trials, and sorrow. But, let trials and sorrow come our way and where do we flee? Where did the patriarchs of the faith go in the time of despair, distress and trials? Did they not draw nigh unto God? Even our own sinful deeds and actions God uses to chasten us to draw us nigh unto our Saviour. Where did David go when overwhelmed with his sin of adultery with Bathsheba and murder of her husband?

It is often that the law of “Whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap,” is still in effect among the heirs of God’s favor and saving grace. As for David, part of his reaping was the loss of his firstborn son begotten by Bathsheba. And then, the lifelong conviction that he had the heart of a murderer, as well.

David, through the actions and events of his sin, was made a man of a contrite heart and lived a lifetime of repentance, as recorded in the Psalms. He was blessed to pen as God caused to be compiled into the Holy Writ for our admonition and instruction. As one reads the Psalms, one sees David’s cry out for mercy in most of the beginnings of his psalms; and then as he writes from his heart of confession, one sees grace visit him

as the psalm continues. Yes, through all of David's sin he was still scripturally known as "a man after God's own heart." Is this not true even with the child of God in this New Covenant/New Testament dispensation? Does not our sin drive us to repentance by the chastening hand of the Almighty? Is not genuine sorrow for sin and repentance that which is granted of God (Acts 5:31 and Acts 11:18)?

Do not these experiences in our journey through this mortal life, which drive us to repentance, cause us to pray with THANKSGIVING for grace which has drawn us to our knees, beseeching our Saviour's mercy and divine forgiveness? I should warn any who confess to be a believer/follower of our Lord Jesus Christ who do not experience the brokenness and sorrow over our poor and sinful actions to "make your calling and election sure."

For ALL of God's children shall be partakers of our Lord's chastening, as recorded in Hebrews 12: 6-11. The elect heirs of grace CANNOT merely get by with sin without God's divine love chastening them and granting them divine repentance with a contrite heart. Oh! for mercy how great a debtor this poor man has been made to be. Beloved of God, it is our God and Saviour who has sought us by His grace, empowers us with His grace, keeps us by His grace; and grace shall see that we are transformed from these sinful mortal frames into bodies incorruptible, immortal, likened unto his own body, per the divine promise of Christ our redeemer. Oh! dear ones, the grave shall have NO power over us as we have been given eternal life through the operation of God's Spirit by Christ Jesus, born again not of flesh but of the Spirit. May we be found giving thanks unto our God for ALL THINGS and be caused to draw nigh unto Him who has loved us with an everlasting love.

Respectfully submitted, by the love of the Lord's bride church,

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