

November 24, 2008

## TURN A CORNER!

**I Thessalonians 5:18: “Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”**

Thanklessness is dangerous to the point of being terrifying. Remember that for thanklessness, an entire generation of Israelites had to die in “that vast and dreadful desert” (Dt. 1:19). And Romans 1 says that people who “although they knew God, neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him,” slip into darkness and into far worse sins.

Or the choice in our lives can be to follow Jesus’ own sweet example of thankfulness; this is for you, friend:

1. He thanked God for revealing eternal truth to human beings – even to little children (Mt. 11:25).
2. He thanked God for answering prayer (Jn. 11:41).
3. He thanked God for daily meals (Mt. 15:36).
4. He even thanked God for the deepest sorrows: the bread and the cup, symbols of His approaching death (Lk. 22:17-19) – and turned His death into blessing.

And we, too, must take care to do the same! William Law wrote these important words – not only to the people of his own day but to us:

“If anyone could tell you the shortest, sweetest way to all happiness and perfection, he must tell you... to thank and praise God for everything that happens to you. For it is certain that whatever seeming calamity happens to you, if you thank and praise God for it, you turn it into a blessing.”

“Let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire” (Heb. 12:28,29).

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