

INI-SDG

In the Name of Jesus – To God Alone the Glory

11.26.2009 Thanksgiving – St. Stephen Lutheran (West Bay) Mountain View, CA

Intro/Children's Sermon: Please and Thank you?

Greeting: Grace, mercy, and peace be to you from our Lord Jesus. Amen.

NKJV - 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

- 16 Rejoice always,
- 17 pray without ceasing,
- 18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Prayer: Let the Words of my mouth and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable in Your sight oh Lord, our Strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

"Happy Holidays! Happy Thanksgiving!"

What makes it happy? = Family, Friends, Food, Fun

Holidays - Church year focus = "The whole counsel of God"

(Gifts) *Christmas* = Humiliation of Christ (came to earth as a man)

(Hope) *Easter* = Exaltation of Christ

(4 F's above) *Thanksgiving* = What about **Forgiveness**?

Theme: Thanksgiving is "More than a Holiday..." HOW?

1. REJOICE!

Text imperatives = Imperative/command (8 total surrounding context/3 here)

V16 shortest verse in the Bible? = 4 letters less (**John 11:35**) – significant!

- Reason to rejoice? = Jesus knows what it feels like!
- = Jesus knows what You're going through now
- = Jesus loves you... willing to suffer

(**Romans 8:39**) = NOTHING can separate God's love for us, from us! (Children)

- Rejoice in sorrow? (**Rom 5:3-5**) = glory in tribulations (good!)
- (**1 Pet 1:3-7**) = rejoice in trials (good test!)
- (**1 Pet 3:13-15**) = always ready to give hope

"Happy Holidays? Happy Thanksgiving?" Flip side? = we grumble (wilderness)
= and we question(doubt) God

HOW is thanksgiving "More than a Holiday?"

2. PRAY!

- V17** verb is always used in... = praying to GOD, not to men (not trustful)
Cure for doubt? (**Lam 3:17-26**) = recall God's mercy/faithfulness – Hope in this!
= Armor of God (**Eph 6:18**) – trust your armor (God's Promise for you)
= without ceasing (constantly in battle – trusting the armor will stand!)
-formal and informal prayers (**Rom 8:26**) Spirit knows our heart
-improving on what we are already doing (or not doing)
-instead of bearing the burden, "take it to the Lord in prayer!"
-leave it on the Lord (in His hands, "in His care") ... BUT,
V18 = (**Luke 17:12-19**) 10 lepers! Quick to ask, slow to thank!
-THANK, no matter what the answer! He is glad to hear it.

HOW is thanksgiving "More than a Holiday?"

3. GIVE THANKS!

When? = Sometimes? When things are going well?

- V18a** = In all circumstances (GOOD or BAD) Illustrations? (**Col 3:17**)
Cat class challenged? = LEARN from challenges/struggles
= Our Heavenly Father wants to teach us!
= God's will... teach you to trust!!!

"Happy Holidays! Happy Thanksgiving!"

What makes it happy? = Family? Friends? Food? Fun? or Forgiveness?

YOU have = a joy in Christ that will NEVER fade!

(**Rom 8:28**) = "It will all work out..." in the END =]

-Looking forward to knowing why this or that happened

V18b = this is God's will for you! He's given you reason to rejoice/give thanks!

- Count your blessings instead of your crosses;
- Count your gains instead of your losses;
- Count your joys instead of your woes;
- Count your friends instead of your foes;
- Count your smiles instead of your tears;
- Count your courage instead of your fears;
- Count your full years instead of your lean...
- Count on God instead of yourself."

-From a Telugu Christian poet

Thanksgiving is MORE than a Holiday...

- = It is a Way of Life!
- = It is an attitude - in Christ! Amen.

This peace of God that passes all understanding will guard your hearts and minds EVER THANKFUL in our risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Amen.

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(Gifts) *Christmas* =
(Hope) *Easter* =
(4 F's above) *Thanksgiving* =

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Reason to rejoice? =
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(Romans 8:39) =

Rejoice in sorrow? (Rom 5:3-5) =
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=

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2. PRAY!

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Cure for doubt? (Lam 3:17-26) =

- =
- =
- formal and informal
- improving
- instead of bearing the burden
- leave it

V18 = (Luke 17:12-19)
-THANK

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V18a = (Col 3:17)
Cat class challenged? =
=
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"Happy Holidays! Happy Thanksgiving!"
What makes it happy? =

YOU have =
(Rom 8:28) =
-Looking forward

V18b =

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Thanksgiving is MORE than a Holiday...

=
=

Amen.

This peace of God that passes all understanding will guard your hearts and minds EVER THANKFUL in our risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Amen.