



The Federated Church of Hyannis

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Reverend Derek L. White, Pastor

Weekly Message from the Pastor and Sermon Notes for November 21, 2021

Last week there was a special gathering of church members after the service in Baldwin Hall. We discussed various topics in regard to the church survey that was mailed out the week previously. Our online presence is much larger than previously known. We recognize many join the service by watching online. Presently there is no way to know the identities of those watching online. If you are one of them, please let the church office know. It is my hope as Pastor to connect with you on the phone, online, or visit in-person. I am looking to see what your spiritual needs are and how best to accommodate them with online services. Thank you for being faithful in attending church online and I look forward to more ways of connecting with you.

Pastor: Rev. Derek L. White

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-18 (NIV)

Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else. Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Sermon: "Give Thanks in ALL Circumstances"

INTRODUCTION

There are four main categories of prayer. Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication (**ACTS**). The most common form of prayer is supplication, which is asking for needs to be met (God supplying). The second most common form of prayer is confession, asking to be forgiven of mistakes. Then comes adoration, which are prayers of praise for good things. And

last most often is prayers of thanksgiving. Whereas this week many of us will celebrate Thanksgiving, it seems appropriate to preach about prayers of thanksgiving.

PART 1

To have a good attitude requires the ability to express gratitude. This past week, while eating dinner with my wife and children at the dinner table, we talked about the importance of why we say grace at the dinner table. My sons were surprised to learn many families do not eat dinner together. It was not something my wife and I experienced growing up.

Talking with my sons, I shared that their mother and I had made a commitment a long time ago that we would eat dinner at the dinner table and say grace every night before dinner. The prayers are always prayers of thanksgiving no matter what happened that day. Regardless of if it is a good day or a bad day, we always have something to be thankful for.

PART 2

When Paul wrote his letter to the church in Thessalonica, it was a time of great persecution for the church. And Paul's letter is one that expresses the importance of always having a good attitude towards others and expressing gratitude to God.

Sometimes being grateful can be hard. There is no shortage of things to complain about in the world. It takes time and effort to reflect on the positive things that one should be grateful for. And so Paul encouraged the church in Thessalonica to always work toward having a positive attitude no matter what the circumstances are. We should give thanks in all circumstances.

CONCLUSION

If you are traveling for Thanksgiving or have family coming to you, it can be a bit of a headache with all the challenges of traveling nowadays. In the same way Thanksgiving can be difficult for individuals who don't have family to share Thanksgiving with. And depending upon family dynamics it can be difficult being with family during the holidays.

Consider this, Thanksgiving as a holiday was celebrated by people thousands of miles away from their families in a new land. They lost many of the people who had made the journey to New England from disease. It was a very hard and difficult beginning as colonists in a new territory. And yet this hearty New England gathering of Congregationalists during that time often sang hymns of Thanksgiving in worship weekly. Being mindful of the importance of praying prayers of Thanksgiving helped give hope that each new day there would be something new to give thanks for.