

## STUDY QUESTIONS CONT'D

9. How can we express thanks in such a way that others will be encourage?
10. What is something in your life that you can choose to be thankful for and expand the thankfulness in your heart?

## WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

The word “gospel” means “good news.” The Gospel, or good news, of Jesus Christ is that He did what no one could ever do. You see, God loves us, but ever since Adam and Eve sinned against God, every human being has sinned and therefore cannot come into God’s presence because He is holy and perfect. As much as we try, we cannot bridge the gap to God because of our sinful nature. We can never be good enough to reach God. Good works, religion, philosophy and morality all fall short of God’s perfection.

God loves us so much that He sent His Own Son, Jesus Christ, to bridge the gap (John 3:16). Jesus did what no one else could ever do, because He is both God and human, born to Mary. He took upon Himself the punishment we deserve, dying on the cross in our place. Now, through a relationship with Jesus Christ, we can come before a holy God. That is the good news! We enter a relationship with Jesus by placing our faith and trust in Him and Him alone for our salvation. Do you have a relationship with Jesus Christ?

The good news doesn’t end there. Not only can we have eternal life through Jesus, but we also now can live without being condemned because of sin. Jesus paid the price for our sins, and He lives within those who have placed their trust in Him. In Christ, not only have we secured our future in eternity with God, but we have the Holy Spirit living in us to help us today to live for Christ. For more information on how to know God, check our website at [www.gbcmilescity.com](http://www.gbcmilescity.com).



Grace Bible Church  
3505 Stower St.  
Miles City, MT 59301  
406-232-5787  
[www.gbcmilescity.com](http://www.gbcmilescity.com)

Small Group Study Guide  
Pastor Jerry Coon – November 19, 2017

## SERMON NOTES

### A VIEW OF THANKSGIVING

Ephesians 5:19-20 1 Thessalonians 5:18

*Eph. 5:19-20 “Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, ALWAYS giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

*1 Thess. 5:18 “Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”*

Three things we learn about Thanksgiving from the Bible:

1. Thanksgiving should be Expressed. (Psa. 100:4) “Enter His gates with thanksgiving in your heart.” David said in Ps. 107, “Give thanks to the Lord for He is good.”
2. Thanksgiving should be Expanding, including 3 things:
  - a. The Blessings of Life
  - b. The Burdens of Life
  - c. The Benefits of Life

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## SERMON NOTES

3. Thanksgiving is Expected. “Give thanks in all circumstances BECAUSE this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” This is God’s will for us. He knows if we will do it, that our lives will be changed.

a. This is the mark of a Growing Christian

b. This is the mark of a Giving Christian – for all that God has done for us. “Thanks” – “Giving”

James 1:17 says *“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights.”*

c. This is the mark of a Glowing Christian –

(2 Cor. 4:6-8, 17) *“For it is God...who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. We are hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; t we are perplexed, but not in despair. vs. 17, For our light affliction, which is for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.”*

## STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Read Ephesians 5:19-20. Someone once said, “the greatest gift we can give God is a grateful heart.” Try to explain why this would be.
2. What does it mean to ALWAYS give thanks to the Lord?
3. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:8. How can we give thanks in all circumstances?
4. How can Christians express their thankfulness?
5. What are some difficult circumstances that challenge being thankful and how can we express thankfulness during these times?
6. How can we expand our thankfulness?
7. Why does God expect us to be thankful no matter what?
8. What does it mean to have an “eternal perspective?”