

“THANKS BE TO GOD”

INTRODUCTION

America sets aside one day a year to give special thanks to God for the blessings we have from Him. The word “thanks” or varied forms of it, is found numerous times in the Bible. We thank God in our homes, and in the worship assemblies of the church. In our lesson today, we shall consider the expression, “Thanks Be To God”, which is found only a few times in the NT, mostly in the Corinthian epistles of the apostle Paul.

DISCUSSION

I. 1st of all, we shall examine it’s use in 1 COR. 15:57.

TEXT: “But **thanks be to God**, which giveth us the victory through out Lord Jesus Christ.”

- A. The context of this passage is that of the message of Paul about the resurrection of the dead at the end of the world.
1. Paul states that the “harvest” of the resurrection comes after the “sowing”, to remind the Corinthians that they need not despair because their loved ones were dying, and there will be a harvest for the seed sown. vs. 35-38
 2. Next, Paul discusses the different “kinds” of flesh, of which humans are one. v. 39
 3. Then Paul discusses the “glory” of the different bodies here to emphasize the fact that the resurrected bodies of saints will be more glorious than all. vs. 40-41
 4. Next, Paul gets to the point of the “resurrection” of physical bodies from the grave. vs. 42-44
 5. Finally, Paul makes a comparison of two “Adams.”
 - a. The first man Adam was “natural” (of the earth). vs. 45-46
 - b. The second man Adam is “spiritual” (of heaven). v. 47
 - c. Then Paul states that **we**, as saints of God, bear the image of both Adams. vs. 48-49
 - d. Then Paul points out that the earthly person of “flesh and blood”(suitable for life here) cannot exist in that form in heaven. v. 50
 - e. This means that there needs to be a “change” from the physical to the spiritual.
 - 1) Many physical beings were already “asleep” in death, which is to be expected. Heb. 9:27
 - 2) Those who are still “awake” or alive when the Lord comes again, will at that time be changed into another state, with mortality putting on immortality—leaving death behind. Vs. 51-53
 - 3) This change results in and is called “victory.”. vs. 54-56
- B. Paul’s conclusion is that “thanks be to God” FOR this victory, which is the accomplished through Christ. v. 58; cf 15:20-22

II. In the second place, we shall look at another passage, 2 COR. 9:15

TEXT: “**Thanks be unto God** for his unspeakable gift.”

- A. In it’s context, it appears that Paul is expressing “thanks to God” for the GIFT that the Gentile churches had made available to the poor saints in Jerusalem following a dearth in the land. Acts 11:28-30
1. Paul was going to pick up the funds and deliver them to Jerusalem. 1 Cor. 16:1-2

2. They were commended for their benevolence. 2 Cor. 9:7
3. Then, Paul points out that their benevolence will multiply and bring fruits. vs. 8-14
4. This gift is “unspeakable”, that is, it is all too difficult to put into words.

B. “God’s unspeakable gift” reminds us that there **are** many other gifts of God that are most difficult to explain. Jas. 1:17

1. The gift of Christ to the world to save man is such a gift. John 3:16
2. The gift of material blessings is also a great gift from God. Acts 14:17
3. The promise of the “kingdom” (or church) is also a gift from God. Luke 12:32; Matt. 16:18-19; Col. 1:13
4. Then salvation itself is a gift from God. Eph. 2:8-9; Rom. 6:17-18
5. Finally, “eternal life” is a gift of God. Rom. 6:23; Tit. 1:2; 1 Pet. 1:3-5

CONCLUSION

I. Do **you** enjoy salvation and have the hope of eternal life?

- A. If you have not obeyed the gospel, you need to repent of your sins, and confess your faith that Jesus is the Son of God, and climax your obedience by being immersed in water to be saved.
- B. If you have erred from the truth and separated yourself from God, you need to repent of your sins, and ask God for forgiveness.

II. The invitation is yours, while we stand together and sing to encourage you.

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