Thanks Be To God

2 Corinthians 9:10-15

1. Intro
   1. December 13 date for money to return (take as long as you need)
   2. Christmas sermon series: Oh Christmas Tree
   3. Thanksgiving week is upon us! 2020 is almost over!
   4. But 2020 is not to blame, it is just where we are right now. And God is using it for His glory and our good.
   5. Thanksgiving History:

Thanksgiving Day is a national holiday in the United States, and Thanksgiving 2020 occurs on Thursday, November 26. In 1621, the Plymouth colonists and Wampanoag Native Americans shared an autumn harvest feast that is acknowledged today as one of the first Thanksgiving celebrations in the colonies. For more than two centuries, days of thanksgiving were celebrated by individual colonies and states. It wasn’t until 1863, in the midst of the Civil War, that President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national Thanksgiving Day to be held each November.

Thanksgiving at Plymouth

In September 1620, a small ship called the Mayflower left Plymouth, England, carrying 102 passengers—an assortment of religious separatists seeking a new home where they could freely practice their faith and other individuals lured by the promise of prosperity and land ownership in the New World. After a treacherous and uncomfortable crossing that lasted 66 days, they dropped anchor near the tip of Cape Cod, far north of their intended destination at the mouth of the Hudson River. One month later, the Mayflower crossed Massachusetts Bay, where the Pilgrims, as they are now commonly known, began the work of establishing a village at Plymouth.

* 1. Today we are reminded of the spiritual reasons behind the desire to travel to the new world…Religious freedom and practice.
  2. We Thank God for that freedom in our country!
  3. Our text has much to say about thanksgiving:

1. Text
   1. Verse 10: He supplies the seed, we scatter it and anticipate a harvest multiplication of righteousness.
      1. Your sowing needs to be big
      2. Your harvesting will then be big
         1. The harvest will be a harvest of obedience
         2. The multiplication will be a multiplication of righteousness
   2. Verse 11: You will be enriched in order to bless more and serve more.
   3. Verse 12: two fold results:
      1. Providing the ministry needs of the saints
      2. Causing others to overflow in THANKSGIVING to God
   4. Verse 13 two actions, multiplied results
      1. Submission: this comes because of the agreement with the Gospel, and the desire to further the Gospel message
      2. Generosity: this shows genuine love for others and for the work of the Gospel
   5. Verse 14: partnership in the Gospel produces a longing to share fellowship and share in the grace of God…together
   6. Verse 15: Thanks be to GOD for His inexpressible gift
      1. Inexpressible: too strong to be conveyed with words
      2. This is the gift of the Gospel!
2. Point
   1. Point 1: Supply
      1. God will supply all we need, and He knows what you need before you ask
      2. Matthew 6: 5“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. 6But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. 7“And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. 8Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.
      3. Luke 12: 29 And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. 30 For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. 31 Instead, seek his[e] kingdom, and these things will be added to you.
      4. God has promised His supply, and His supply will not run dry.
      5. We struggle in this because we worry and fret regarding our obvious belief that God needs our help, and our help is lacking.
      6. It is God who supplies, and it is the believer who is thankful.
   2. Point 2: Multiply
      1. God will multiply what you have, and what you sow, by His will and His promise
      2. The multiplication that is seen will be vastly dwarfed by what is unseen.
      3. We desire to see the multiplication, but sometimes it is in the unseen multiplication that the most amazing supernatural work takes place.
      4. Hattie May Wiatt as told by Pastor Russell Conwell in 1912

**What You Give to God, He Multiplies**

Hattie May Wiatt, a six-year-old girl, lived near Grace Baptist Church in Philadelphia, USA. The Sunday school was very crowded. Russell H. Conwell, the minister, told her that one day they would have buildings big enough to allow everyone to attend. She said, ‘I hope you will. It is so crowded I am afraid to go there alone.’ He replied, ‘When we get the money we will construct one large enough to get all the children in.’

Two years later, in 1886, Hattie May died. After the funeral Hattie’s mother gave the minister a little bag they had found under their daughter’s pillow containing 57 cents in change that she had saved up. Alongside it was a note in her handwriting: ‘To help build bigger so that more children can go to Sunday school.’

The minister changed all the money into pennies and offered each one for sale. He received $250 – and 54 of the cents were given back. The $250 was itself changed into pennies and sold by the newly formed ‘Wiatt Mite Society’. In this way, her 57 cents kept on multiplying.

Twenty-six years later, in a talk entitled, ‘The history of the 57 cents’, the minister explained the results of her 57-cent donation: a church with a membership of over 5,600 people, a hospital where tens of thousands of people had been treated, 80,000 young people going through university, 2,000 people going out to preach the gospel – all this happened ‘because Hattie May Wiatt invested her 57 cents’.

The theme of multiplication runs throughout the Bible. What cannot be achieved by addition, God does by multiplication. You reap what you sow, only many times more. What you give to the Lord, he multiplies.

* + 1. What does God promise in multiplication?:
       1. Blessings and troubles: Mark 10:25-31

25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.” 26 And they were exceedingly astonished, and said to him,[c] “Then who can be saved?” 27 Jesus looked at them and said, “With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God.” 28 Peter began to say to him, “See, we have left everything and followed you.” 29 Jesus said, “Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, 30 who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life. 31 But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”

* + - 1. Resources Mark 7:31-8:13
      2. Prayers: Exodus 35:1-36:38
      3. Giving: “
      4. Service Opportunties: “
  1. Point 3: Thanksgiving
     1. Believers will be ever mindful of the source of our strength and grace in partnering in the Gospel.
     2. Verse 13 speaks of the overflow of obedience and recognition of God’s provision.
     3. By Thanksgiving to God:
        1. Because of your submission that comes from your confession of the gospel of Jesus Christ.
        2. And generosity (partnering in the Gospel)
     4. Thanks be to GOD for HIS INEXPRESSIBLE GIFT!

1. Close
   1. Thank the Lord for HIS grace
   2. Thank the Lord for His Love
   3. Thank the LORD for challenges
   4. Thank the Lord for making you the person you are.
   5. Thank the Lord for that which is INEXPRESSIBLE!