

HOW THANKFUL ARE YOU TODAY?

ROMANS 8:31-39

What a wonderful time of year to think about being thankful every day to GOD for his sustaining grace, power and mercy toward us in the love of a father to his children. Yes! Think about what it must be like to love someone so much, only to have him or her not love you in return. Think about it a GOD who would come and pay the greatest price ever paid for dishonest and disorient children. Children who do what ever they want to do paying little regard to HIS direction.

What then shall we say to these indictments, what shall we say to this question? If GOD is for us, who can be against us? (Romans 8:31)

When we look at this question, it seems to be rhetorical and yet it gives us an answer .To the question of “Who”? The answer is nobody can be against us.

But about the question of, “What” can be against us? Nothing can be against us. In addition, the question of “When” comes up? Never can anything be against us. Then the question of, “Where” comes up. Nowhere can any thing be against us. However, when we look at the question “Why”, we get an answer to these questions. GOD can be against us because of our sinful and disrespectful ways! Why do you say that preacher?

Let us look at Jeremiah Chap.8: 20 & 9:1, do we miss out on the opportunity to let GOD be totally in control of our lives. Verse 20 says,” The harvest is past, the summer is ended and we are not saved”, while verse 1 says, Oh that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people.

Like the people of Israel we do not get it, we do not connect with GOD'S mercy, or his love for us. We only think of GOD and then ourselves when it is convenient, or when we want a favor.

Are you thankful enough to give GOD all of the praise that he desires and indeed deserves?

When we look again at Jeremiah, we see that the people would not tolerate the man of GOD, because they had declared, "we are wise, and the LAW of the LORD is with us," 8:8. HOWEVER, the LORD'S covenants do not give His people a license to sin or to ignore HIS WORD.

As we look further at Jeremiah in chapter 13, we see that GOD required him to wear a linen sash. Do you wonder why? Let me tell you why! GOD instructed him to wear the sash then to bury it and the once used sash became useless. Through the sash, GOD provided a useful lesson for His people. The ruined piece of clothing represented the people of Israel and even us today who once worshipped and served GOD, but became useless through disobedience. Sometimes people should have special reasons to pay close attention to this object lesson that GOD is showing them, and be challenged. Because the lesson we must get from GOD, indeed must get is our identity and that we must possess stable values.

We become useless when we live with sin and apathy, when we live as mavericks and when we think small.

Paul knew both man's illness and the cure, after declaring that the law of the Spirit of life has set us free from the law of sin and death, he travels and directs us to the HOLY SPIRIT, who will direct us on. (Romans 8:2-4)

This concept reveals the difference between Christian mentoring and the world's mentoring. Christian mentors do not build a reliance on themselves, but point their protégés to GOD for directions. The life that Paul travels is a life of liberty, hope, and power which he works in the Name of JESUS CHRIST to instill in the believer.

When you read the BIBLE carefully, you will find one of the greatest lessons taught is this thought. HOW THANKFUL ARE YOU TODAY? How Thankful are you everyday? Do you tell GOD how thankful you are at this moment? Tell GOD how thankful you are right now. Tell Him," it is good to give thanks to GOD". (Psalms 92:1).

GOD plus one equals a majority, Joseph learned this lesson in prison.

Paul and Peter learned this lesson in prison. Are you learning the lesson in prison, or are you watching the things we see in the newspaper where homes are destroyed, lives are lost through floods, fires, famines, storms, wars and other acts of violence. Our hearts and prayers go out to people who experience these kinds of tragedies. However, we still have much to be thankful for when we look at our personal lives, do we not, although we see people hurting and suffering, are we not grateful and thankful. By heeding GOD's ways, we are spared much of the misery that comes to those who are caught up in selfish pursuits. (Isaiah 48:17)

WE MUST KEEP A WILLINGNESS TO PLEASE GOD BY WALKING IN HUMILITY AND PRAY BY BEING THANKFUL FOR ALL WE HAVE RECEIVED. ARE YOU THANKFUL? ARE YOU THANKFUL TO GOD TODAY AND EVERYDAY FOR THE AIR WE BREATH • THE CLOTHES WE WEAR • THE SHELTER WE LIVE IN • THE JOBS WE HAVE • ALL OF THE PROVISIONS HE GIVES TO US. THE PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES ARE BLESSED AND DON'T SEEM TO CARE,

THE MORE THEY POSSESS THE MORE THEY WANT. WE SHOULD REALLY BE THANKFUL FOR WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN TO US · AMEN THANK GOD. In this way, GOD has assured us that HE sees our efforts and will reward us accordingly. (Hebrews 6:10) Such benefits move us to “give thanks to GOD. (Pslams 107:8)

Summary

HOW THANKFUL ARE YOU TODAY?

If GOD is for us, who can be against us?

To the question of, “What” - GOD can be against us because of our sinful and disrespectful ways! Like the people of Israel we do not get it, we do not connect with GOD’S mercy, or his love for us. Are you thankful enough to give GOD all of the praise that he desires and indeed deserves?

GOD instructed Jeremiah to wear a sash then to bury it and the once used sash became useless. Through the sash, GOD provided a useful lesson for His people. The ruined piece of clothing represented the people of Israel and even us today who once worshipped and served GOD, but then became useless through disobedience. The lesson is we must get our identities from GOD and we must possess stable values. (Jeremiah 13)

Christian mentors do not build a reliance on them, but point their protégés to GOD. **HOW THANKFUL ARE YOU TODAY?** How Thankful are you everyday? Did you tell GOD how thankful you are at this moment? Tell GOD how thankful you are right now. GOD plus one equals a majority, Joseph learned this lesson in prison.

Paul and Peter learned this lesson in prison. **ARE YOU THANKFUL?** I am thankful for this nation and for the GOD of the bible who shared his grace on us. There are many who wish to

ignore and rewrite our history about us being a Christian nation or not. We are a Christian nation, we are a Godly nation and we are a thankful nation. Let those who truly love the Lord stand up and resonate with one voice that we are thankful to the GOD of our salvation. That he has instilled deep within our hearts his grace, mercy and love, which will burn until we meet him again.

The BIBLE tells us in the dark days that many will show themselves to be lovers of self and unthankful for what they have received from the GOD of mercy, hope, and love. 2 Timothy 3:1-5. Be Thankful, be Gracious, be Merciful and loving to all mankind. Be forgiving of those who do not know JESUS CHRIST as their personal Savior, be an example for them. Show yourselves Thankful! (Colossians 3:15)

Again, I say, be Thankful for all of the goodness that GOD has bestowed upon you. Until the next Message, be thankful and be Blessed Amen. Thank GOD.