

Thanks Be to God

I. Introduction

- A. On at least five occasions, the apostle Paul wrote, “Thanks be to God.” The blessings God provides to His faithful children provide great reason for such gratitude. **Romans 6:17-18**
- B. For instance, we should be thankful to God...

II. ...For Redemption

- A. One passage in which Paul uses the phrase, “Thanks be to God” alludes to the blessing of *redemption*. Jesus paid the debt we cannot pay to release us from the bondage of sin. **Romans 6:17-18; Ephesians 1:7**

III. ...For God’s Grace

- A. We do not deserve this redemption. We do not deserve salvation from sin and its consequences. Such is possible because of *God’s grace*. He did for us what we do not deserve. This is great reason for gratitude. **Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-9**

IV. ...For God’s Accessibility

- A. The salvation made possible through God’s grace is available to *each* of us. No matter our background or abilities, God *wants* us to receive His blessings. **Titus 2:11; Revelation 22:17**

V. ...For a “New Leaf”

- A. The chance to come to God is possible no matter how sinful we have been in the past. Like Paul, we can “turn over a new leaf,” and need not be haunted by past sins. **Philippians 3:13-14**

VI. ...For the Chance to Serve

- A. New life in Christ involves *servicing* in His kingdom. It is a blessing to be able to worship, honor, and glorify God. It is a privilege to serve and do great things for Him. **Matthew 20:26**

VII. ...For God’s Family

- A. It is a privilege to serve with *fellow members* of God’s kingdom, or family. The faithfulness of other Christians, and the help Christians can give one another, is cause for thankfulness. **Philippians 1:3; 1 Thessalonians 1:2**

VIII. ...For God’s Guidance

- A. God has provided us all we need to know about *how* to serve Him. Through His Word, Our Creator *guides* us down the right path. **Acts 20:32**

IX. ...For God’s Care

- A. Not only does God guide us through His Word, but He also works through His providence as He determines best to care for His children. **1 Peter 3:12; Philippians 4:6**

X. ...For Peace and Joy

- A. Those who choose to submit to God in trusting obedience are able to have a *peace* that surpasses all understanding and unspeakable *joy* that is far deeper than anything the world can offer. **Philippians 4:7; 4:4**

XI. ...For Hope and Its Basis

- A. While many of the spiritual blessings enjoyed by the faithful in Christ apply to our lives on earth, the blessings in full will be realized when we reach our heavenly home. Though we cannot see this home during our time on earth, we can live with a *hope* of heaven. **Hebrews 6:19**
- B. Such hope provides reason for gratitude, as does God’s faithfulness and the resurrection of His Son that makes hope possible. **1 Corinthians 15:57**

XII. Conclusion

- A. May we share Paul’s gratitude toward God for these and other blessings He provides.