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Having a Grateful Heart

One way to define Thanksgiving is *the appropriate response to God's goodness*. **But what is goodness?** Goodness is one of God's attributes and includes His benevolence, compassion, tenderheartedness and patience. But why does He choose to be good toward us? **What have we done to deserve His goodness?** We do not deserve His goodness. God is good because of who He is, not because of who we are.

Two Keys to Thankfulness: Humility & Hope

Humility	
Humility, Faith and Repentance	
Humility is an essential prerequisite for thankfulness. This not only applies to our response to God but also to those around us. An arrogant person is not a thankful person. Thankfulness recognizes that a debt of gratitude is owed to someone.	Faith is our humble response to God's goodness in providing a way of salvation: "going forth to Him, outside the camp." Paul writes in Romans 1:21-22 that mankind rejected God and was thankless, reflecting its arrogance toward Him.
Hebrews 13:12-15	Romans 1:21-22

God's Goodness Leads to Repentance	
Romans 2:4	Romans 2:5
What words does Paul use in verse 4 to describe God?	What words does Paul use in verse 5 to describe the attitude of those who reject God?

When we compare verse 4 and verse 5 we can see the contrast of a humble response to God's goodness that leads to repentance and an arrogant response to God that leads to His judgment.

Hope

Hebrews 13:14

In the midst of suffering here on earth, we can have an eternal perspective that gives us hope. This hope leads to thanksgiving. No matter what our circumstances, there will come a day when there is no more sorrow, no more suffering, no more tears. And the time we spend in eternity is infinitely longer than the brief time we spend on this earth. An important theme of Scripture is what could be called “the long view”--the eternal perspective..

Read each passage below and write a few words indicating what you can be thankful for in light of each verse.

Colossians 1:5	
Titus 2:13	
I Peter 1:3-4	
I John 3:2-3	