

Word Meditation on Thanksgiving Day 2023

Order: Prayer → Praise송 → Scripture → Understanding Scripture → Meditation on Grace → Prayer → Lord's Prayer

- ❖ **Prayer** – One of the family members or Individual
- ❖ **Praise** – If possible, Hymnal 588 (Old Version, 307) is to be sung. If not, please sing any good Christian song.
- ❖ **Scripture Reading** – Habakkuk 3:17~18
- ❖ **Understanding Scripture (Thanksgiving Too Much)**
 1. The reason of human beings for thanksgiving would be related to money in many cases. Christians are not exception. It must be the result of the weakness of human beings. When there is anything realistically helpful to us, we have satisfaction, joy, gladness, and finally thanksgiving. In this season of thanksgiving, this is why we need to meditate the reason of Habakkuk for thanksgiving.
 2. The environment when the prophet Habakkuk lived was chaotic. It was about 606~604 B.C., outside of Judah, there was Babylon, the new powerful nation, under king Nebuchadnezzar, won the “Carchemish Battle” against Egyptian king Necho II. Inside of Judah, the puppet king, set by Egypt, Jehoiakim led Judah into corruption, violence, quarrel, greed, and injustice. So there was no hope in Judah at that time. Judah was to be defeated by Babylon sometime soon. At that time, God used Habakkuk to write this message to His people.
 3. In this miserable situation, Habakkuk wrote the near future of Judah, his nation, in verse 17; “Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls”
 4. In the situation that individual and nation would lose the joy and stand before death, he put all his hope to YHWH God and confesses, “yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation.” To him, YHWH God Himself is the reason for his thanksgiving to Him as well as his reason for joy and glad, in that miserable situation.
 5. When there is no reason for thanksgiving and the situation is getting more desperate, if we should give thanks to God, then that thanksgiving should be “too much.” If we cannot give thanks to God but we should do that in force...
 6. Therefore, we may have three different responses to the fact.
 - a. First, we may not give thanks to God. Because there is no reason for thanksgiving, we do not want to do “too much.” This response seems fresh.
 - b. Second, we may give thanks to God “too much,” as is. We can try to find the reason for thanksgiving even though there is no reason for that. If found any, we can give thanks to God.
 - c. Third and last, we just give thanks to God “too much” as Habakkuk showed us. But, his reason for thanksgiving is very convincible. From different angel, his thanksgiving is vivid thanksgiving which is meaningful and valuable. Why? Because his thanksgiving is not based on common reason for thanksgiving. Rather, he excludes all the visible conditions from the thanksgiving reasons, but confesses YHWH God, who is the Creator, Savior, and Shepherd, who makes his heart and thought satisfied, as the reason for satisfaction and thanksgiving.
 7. If we give thanks to God as prophet Habakkuk did, then we have the more definite reason for that. That is the lovely action “too much” for us, Jesus’ death on the cross, in order to save us from the everlasting sin and death. Because we are in that grace, even in the situation that we cannot be satisfied by anything and anybody, rather even in desperate, depressed, collapsed situation, we can give thanks to God. It seems “too much,” but the value and meaning for that action is sincere.
- ❖ **Meditation on Grace**
 1. For what, we want to give thanks to God?
 2. Do we want to live without any thanksgiving because we do not want to give thanks too much?
 3. Or, when we deeply meditate the redemptive grace of God for us, do we want to rejoice and take joy in the triune God as well as give thanks to Him for His wonderful grace alone, which gave us the eternal life and made us realize the eternal blessings in heaven, the kingdom of God?
- ❖ **Prayer** – Praying with the meditation and finishing with the Lord’s Prayer.