

## **Growing a Healthy Flock, Part 6**

*John MacArthur*

### I. Introduction.

A. Text: I Thessalonians 5:18.

B. We are to give thanks no matter what.

### II. Thankfulness is the manifestation of the Christian heart. (Romans 1)

### III. Thankless people...

A. Are those who go about thinking life is explained by life.

B. Are those who think the life is fatalistically determined.

C. Are those who think that all credit goes to them.

### IV. A theology of thankfulness.

A. No matter what happens, God is at work for our good. (Romans 8:28)

B. A time of thanks was characteristic of the early church, which stimulated the hearts of believers. (I Corinthians 14:16)

C. Salvation should stimulate a believer to thanks always. Thankfulness is normative for the believer. (II Corinthians 4:15, 9:11, Ephesians 5:3, 5:18-20, Colossians 2:6, 3:15-17, 4:2)

D. People ought to judge their spirituality by their thankfulness.

### V. Things that will corrupt a person's thankfulness.

A. Doubting God.

B. Selfishness.

C. Worldliness.

D. A critical spirit.

E. Impatience.

F. Coldness.

G. Rebellion. (Philippians 2)

VI. What happens when one is thankful.

- A. God is glorified.
- B. You are blessed.
- C. The church is built up.
- D. The lost are reached.

**Application questions:**

1. What are some of your greatest hindrances to thankfulness? How do these relate to the list above?

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2. What role should church participation play in increasing a person's thankfulness?

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3. Why should a believer always have a thankful heart? Explain.

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