

IT IS SETTLED!

"Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man" (Ecclesiastes 12:13b)

By Howell Lasseter

From Heaven, or of Men (Part 7)

Although the "Thanksgiving" holiday has passed, let's continue to look at what God says about the topic of thankfulness/unthankfulness.

Sprinkled throughout the Bible are examples of men and women who were thankful. Space will permit just a few references. "**Daniel** kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God,...(6:10). At least 31 of the **Psalms** express the thought of thankfulness. **Jesus**, who could provide food for thousands, "*commanded the people to sit down on the ground: and he took the seven loaves, and gave thanks, and brake, and gave to his disciples to set before them;...(Luke 8:6)*. God records for us the sinful and ugly behavior of those who are unrighteous, and among the sins of fornication, murder, and pride, He says, "*...when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were **thankful**;...(Romans 1:20-32; esp.21a)*. He lists many of these sins again in 2 Timothy 3:1-5, and there we see "*...boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, **unthankful**, **unholy**...*" Hear God's warnings about the danger of prosperity: "*...when the Lord thy God shall have brought thee into the land which he sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give thee great and goodly cities, which thou buildest not, and houses full of all good things which thou filledst not, and wells digged, which thou diggedst not, vineyards and olive trees, which thou plantedst not; when thou shalt have eaten and be full; then **beware** lest thou forget the Lord,...(Deuteronomy 6:10-12)*. "*Two things have I required of thee; deny me them not before I die: remove far from me vanity and lies; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me; **lest I be full, and deny thee**, and say, *Who is the Lord? Or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain*" (Proverbs 30:7-9). "*...godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment, let us be therewith content...Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; that they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate, laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life*" (1 Timothy 6:6-8,17-19).*

From these few scriptures we can clearly see that God is aware of whether one's heart is thankful or unthankful, and He warns us of the dangers of unthankfulness. May each of us learn to be thankful, and follow Daniel's example of prayers of thanksgiving.