

Celebrating Thanksgiving

Script - Rom. 8:18

- A. Intro - "What are you thankful for?" Just the blessings? Or learning from the difficult times?
1. We are currently being told that things are getting better. Many opinion polls do not reflect that people have confidence in the leadership or the direction that we are going.
 2. There are many things that people look to as indicators to predict future activity.
 - a. Political promises.
 - b. Financial markets.
 - c. Popular opinions.
 3. God says there is none like Him (Ex. 9:14). He gives us prophecies and promises that let us know he can predict the future before it happens (Dan. 2; 7; Isa. 42:9; 46:10).
 4. His people down through the ages have trusted in his promises and his word (Jn. 14:1-3; Titus 2:13; Ps. 119:105). There have been several attempts down through time to alter what God has predicted (Dan. 2 and 3; etc).
 5. Although there have been many hardships inflicted on us with the pandemic, God tells us that we should praise Him at all times (Ps. 34:1). Even the difficult times (1 Pet. 1:6-7; 4:12-13; Rom. 8:18).
 6. Reasons why I should praise Him during the difficult times.
 - a. The trials help me grow stronger (1 Pet. 1:6-7).
 - b. They help my faith to grow (1 Pet. 4:12-13).
 - c. They give me hope (Lk. 21:28).
 - d. They are preparing me for what is to come (Rom. 8:18).
 7. God's word list two reasons why there is tribulation in the last days.
 - a. God defends his people by giving to the wicked what they have tried to give to the righteous (2 Th. 1:6-8; Rev. 16:5-6, 18:20; Isa. 26:20-21; Isa. 49:25).
 - b. To purify His people (Mal. 3:2-3; 1 Pet. 1:6-7; 4:12-13; 1 Cor. 3:13; Isa. 1:25).
- B. The most inspiring and repeated stories of God's word are the ones where people were going through hard times and stood up for their faith in spite of the difficulties and dangers (Job 2:10; 3:15).
1. Daniel in the lion's den (Dan. 6).
 2. The three Hebrews in the fiery furnace (Dan. 3).
 3. David and Goliath (1 Sam. 17).
 4. Etc., etc., etc.
- C. What can we learn from these stories?
1. All of these favorite stories took place when the participants were under difficult times.
 2. All of these stories have inspired others to stand up for their faith.
 3. All of the stories emphasize the close walk they had with their God.
- D. Appeal (Rom. 8:18). God wants to reveal His glory through us to others. Is He doing that through you?

Helen Keller quote. "Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experiences of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, vision cleared, ambition inspired and success achieved.