

ROMANS: PART 6
EXPLANATION OF THE GOSPEL

Thanklessness: The Beginning of Atheism
Romans 1:21

Context 1:21.

1. Cause: Those who suppress the knowledge of God.
2. Effect: Do not glorify God (glorify = "dokeo" verb, "doxa" noun = doxology).
3. Effect: Do not give thanks.

The Danger of Ingratitude.

1. Thankless => takes eyes of God => doubt => faithlessness.
2. Thankless is the first step toward Godlessness & Atheism.
3. Cf. Ex 15:1,2,11; I Cor 10:1-10; II Tim 3:1ff.

The Reasons for Ingratitude.

1. Self-focused.
We reject the fact that every good thing comes from God's merciful hand. Jm 1;17.
2. Self-centered.
We're blinded to the fact that what deserve is judgment now. Lam 3:22,23; Lk 13:1-5.
3. Self-satisfied.
We regard "thank you" as redundant & unnecessary.

Seven Principles to Help Cultivate Thanksgiving to God.

1. Give thanks -- knowing that the Lord delights in your thanks. Lk 17:11-19.
2. Give thanks -- knowing that how you feel may not matter. James 3:1-12.
3. Give thanks in adversity -- knowing that God's grace is sometimes hidden.
Col 4:2; I Thess 5:18; Phil 1:3; 2:14; Mt 26:26-27.
4. Give thanks -- regularly & daily. O.T. sacrifices; Ps 103; Eph 1:6,12,14; Phil 1:11.
5. Give thanks -- with God's people & for God's people. Ps 35:18;
6. Give thanks -- for past blessings. Eph 2:11.
7. Give thanks -- for His salvation. II Kings 6:24ff.