

# S.O.H.L.

## WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

*Pronounced "Soul"*

November 9, 2015

## The sin of thanklessness (Pt. 1 of 2)

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 NKJV** – (16) Rejoice always, (17) pray without ceasing, (18) in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Two men were walking through a field one day when they spotted an enraged bull. Instantly they darted toward the nearest fence. The storming bull followed in hot pursuit, and it was soon apparent they would not be able to escape its path. Terrified, one shouted to the other, "Put up a prayer, John. We're in for it!" John answered, "I can't. I've never made a public prayer in my life." "But you must!" implored his companion. "The bull is catching up to us." "All right," panted John, "I'll say the only prayer I know, the one my father used to repeat at the table: 'O Lord, for what we are about to receive, make us truly thankful.'

Possibly the greatest sin of the church in America in this generation is the failure to be grateful for the blessings that we have. The Scripture commands us to have thankful hearts, but it is the Spirit that gives us the perspective whereby we experience.

About A D. 50, the missionary team led by Paul and Silas left Phillipi and traveled westward to a road called Via Egnatia. This very road would lead them to the capital city of the state of Macedonia, Thessalonica. There they visited a Jewish synagogue and began to teach the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus the Christ. Many Jews were persuaded and eventually the church of Thessalonica was born. On the other hand, there were many Jews that did not accept the teachings of Paul and Silas. These people, though Jews, were known as Judiazers. Judiazers were Jews that believed in grace, but also some self-effort for salvation to take place in one's life. They were furious at the teachings of Paul and Silas and stormed the home of Jason, where Paul and Silas were staying as guests. Paul and his team were not there, so they dragged Jason and some of the other fellow believers before the city authorities. That very night, the Thessalonian believers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea, where they could continue their ministry (**Acts 17:1-9**). Eventually from Athens, Paul sent Timothy to Thessalonica to encourage the people. Timothy came back with an encouraging report from the church and, in his report, assured Paul that the believers were holding on to their faith, laboring for the Lord out of love and patiently hoping for the Lord's return. There were some doctrinal misunderstandings, but Paul wrote the church not only to encourage them about their faith, but to correct any misunderstandings of his previous teachings, reminding them that sanctification was God's will for them. Verse 18 tells us "In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." How do we do this? Tune in next week for the answer.

**SCRIPTURE READING:** 1 TIMOTHY 4:4

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:** Our belief doesn't change reality.