

Lesson No. 115 – What Should We Be Thankful For?

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In today's modernity, so many are just trying to get through each day with some of the basic necessities of life. In various parts of the world, this boils down to just trying to stay alive and not get blown up by someone who has been blindsided by hate and willing to die and kill others just to fulfill the tempter's desire. All about us, forces exist that constantly seek to make every one else's life miserable that doesn't see life as they do. Recently, the president of the U.S. took to twitter and told four (4) U.S. Congresswoman to return to the countries they came from because in his mind, their disagreements of his policies suggest they hate this country. All 4 of these women are women of color, and, all but one of them were actually born in this country.

These are truly fanatical actions that in reality, all of those who agree with these actions are thankful to those who are bold enough to perpetrate the actions.

Last week I was listening to public radio and an expert on space travel was saying how great it would be to send a man back to the moon and also to the planet mars. He was also saying how that the U.S. would be great if it could find a way to make space travel for common citizens less expensive. To this person, these types of thoughts and desires bring happiness to him. As I was listening, I remembered the words of a friend, who worked at NASA for over 40 years , telling me that it would be impossible for man to go to mars and get off the spaceship, because the only protection from radiation is lead, which is too heavy to put in a spacesuit. Wouldn't you assume that the men in charge of these thoughts and decisions would know this as well.

So why waist billions, or perhaps trillions, of dollars on unrealistic desires. The bottom line is this. Any thoughts of mankind's resettlement on another planet directly contradicts what we on this study have come to trust in, believe in, and continue to grow to walk in; that is, the unfathomable WORD of ELOHIM. And that is what brought me to tonight's Lesson No. 115 – What Should We Be Thankful For?

The WORD of ELOHIM unapologetically proclaims that ELOHIM created the heavens and the earth. Yet, as mankind began to populate the prize of these creations, planet earth, the concept of thankfulness appears to have been misplaced because of man's misplaced understanding of his own existence. As members of the Household of Faith, shouldn't there be a consistent theme of why and what we should be thankful? Well, let's search ELOHIM's WORD to see if we can all continue to fulfill our commissions as taught by HIS WORD.

As YAHWEH began to establish the nation HE loved above all other nations on this planet, the Children of Yisrael (COY), we find this set of actions regarding Yacob.

- Gen 29:30 And he went in also unto Rachel, and he loved also Rachel more than Leah, and served with him yet seven other years.

If we recall the story, Yacob, whose name was later changed to Yisrael, loved Rachel and agreed to work seven years for her. Her father tricked him into first marrying her sister Leah, before giving him Rachel as well. After marrying Leah, he was to work another seven years for Rachel.

- Gen 29:31 And when the LORD saw that Leah *was* hated, he opened her womb: but Rachel *was* barren. Gen 29:32 And Leah conceived, and bare a son, and she called his name Reuben: for she said, Surely the LORD hath looked upon my affliction; now therefore my husband will love me.

- Gen 29:33 And she conceived again, and bare a son; and said, Because the LORD hath heard that I *was* hated, he hath therefore given me this *son* also: and she called his name Simeon. Gen 29:34 And she conceived again, and bare a son; and said, Now this time will my husband be joined unto me, because I have born him three sons: therefore was his name called Levi. Gen 29:35 And she conceived again, and bare a son: and she said, Now will I praise the LORD: therefore she called his name Judah; and left bearing.

So, we see Leah, who was not loved by her husband as he loved Rachel, bearing the first four of the sons of Yisrael; Reuben, Simeon, Levi and Yehudah. And by the language we read in verse 34, she thought that in bearing Yacob the first 3 sons, he would be joined unto her. She wanted his love, knowing that her little sister Rachel would always be in the background having his affection.

In verse 35 we find the first instance of a Biblical word so widely used by the majority of those who call themselves Christians. That word is praise, translated from the Hebrew word “yadah” which appears to literally mean to throw reverence to, be thankful, or praise. Based on the context of the passage, it appears that this praise, reverence, and thankfulness she gave to YAHWEH is predicated on the fact that HE gave her four sons. And also, based on the context of the passage, the foundation of her praise was based on her belief that these four sons would so satisfy her husband that he would “be joined unto” her, perhaps more so than to her sister.

Is this an example of what those of the Household of Faith should be thankful to ELOHIM for; being blessed with children, simply for the sake of attracting someone’s affections? Every week it appears that ELOHIM’s WORD amazes me with new found realities I never knew before. Sometimes it is as though I am reading HIS words for the very first time. And let me say this with the utmost sincerity.

I am thankful to each one of you for allowing me to lead you in these Sabbath night discussions about ELOHIM's WORD more than you probably realize. What I found out this week is that the word thankful is only found three times in the KJV of ELOHIM's WORD; only once in the NASB, and twice in the CJB. Does that surprise you? It did me. Let's skip ahead to first read the 2nd instance of this word thankful in the KJV.

- Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

Many Sunday congregations love to quote this scripture. But do these understand its context?

- Rom 1:17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

The Apostle Paul was called-out by none other than YESHUA HIMSELF to bring clarity to the New Covenant YESHUA first implemented through the twelve disciples who were to become HIS apostles. Here, he establishes a simple foundation for those of the Household of Faith to be thankful for. That is, the gospel of YESHUA MESSIAH, which is the righteousness of ELOHIM revealed from faith to faith. The question for all of us is where is our level of faith? I.e., is the faith that each of us have in the gospel of YESHUA enough for us to be thankful?

- Rom 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Rom 1:19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed *it* unto them. Rom 1:20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

Now indeed these are very powerful words spoken by the apostle. They plainly state that there are those “who hold the truth in unrighteousness”. We know that the Biblical definition of righteousness is all of ELOHIM’s commandments. So, there are those who know ELOHIM’s commandments, and yet reject them. And these may surprise some of us. Verses 19 and 20 present another aspect or level of unrighteousness that mankind rejects. If we simply observe what has been created from what we can prove from the foundation of the heavens and the earth, we would understand ELOHIM’s eternal power and Godhead, or divinity.

- Rom 1:21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

And this is where mankind has come to. Because they reject what is all about us, they neither glorify ELOHIM or are thankful to ELOHIM, but have become vain in their imaginations; such as wanting to repopulate another planet. The earth obviously is not good enough for mankind.

- Rom 1:22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, Rom 1:23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things.

Walk downtown and look up at the figurines on the buildings of modernity in many cities. You will see these creatures that man glorifies with his imaginations; just like the COY. Notice this example.

- Exo 32:1 And when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him, Up, make us gods, which shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him.

And remember, Aaron was the high priest of YAHWEH.

- Exo 32:2 And Aaron said unto them, Break off the golden earrings, which *are* in the ears of your wives, of your sons, and of your daughters, and bring *them* unto me. Exo 32:3 And all the people brake off the golden earrings which *were* in their ears, and brought *them* unto Aaron. Exo 32:4 And he received *them* at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, after he had made it a molten calf: and they said, These *be* thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. Exo 32:5 And when Aaron saw *it*, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation, and said, Tomorrow *is* a feast to the LORD. Exo 32:6 And they rose up early on the morrow, and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play.

And just that quickly, Aaron allowed himself to walk in unrighteousness and create a creature to be worshipped by the people. And just like that, the COY became thankful to an idol. If we open our eyes this same mentality is all around us today in modernity. Just turn on the TV.

- Rom 1:24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Rom 1:25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. Rom 1:26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: Rom 1:27 And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.

All we have to do is humble ourselves to nature and the natural creation of man and woman to see ELOHIM as described in HIS WORD. But, mankind refuses to do this. His pleasure is his thankfulness, regardless of how obviously unnatural it has become.

- Rom 1:28 And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

This word reprobate is heard a lot. It is the Greek word “adokimos”, meaning casted away or rejected, worthless.

- Rom 1:29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Rom 1:30 Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Rom 1:31 Without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Rom 1:32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

This week I saw where a transvestite couple was overjoyed because the former male, now transformed into a woman, became pregnant. This scene is now becoming common to modernity’s mankind. We see the reprobate minds becoming the norm.

Something we need to discern about the apostle’s words here is read in the conclusion in verse 31. These know the judgment of ELOHIM, and yet continue to do these vile actions in pleasure. I.e., they are thankful for the ability to perform these vile and unrighteous actions. And let us not be naive, this is happening also amongst those who give the appearance of being in the Household of Faith.

With that, let's now look at the first instance of the word thankful in the KJV. As I was studying this, I recognized that many Hebrew Yisraelite congregations have made some of these words their closing Sabbath prayers as they stand and face Yerushalaim.

- Psa 100:1 A Psalm of praise. Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. Psa 100:2 Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Psa 100:3 Know ye that the LORD he *is* God: *it is* he *that* hath made us, and not we ourselves; *we are* his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Psa 100:4 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, *and* into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, *and* bless his name. Psa 100:5 For the LORD *is* good; his mercy *is* everlasting; and his truth *endureth* to all generations.

Most Hebrew Yisraelite congregations close their Sabbath services by standing, facing Yerushalaim and quoting the Lord's prayer with hands held high. Some are now including verse 5 repetitively as a part of their closing prayers. Now for sure, the Prophet King David is speaking of the only nation he truly knew that had YAHWEH's blessing at that time, Yisrael.

Yet, if we have eyes to see and ears to hear, we must recognize that this has been transferred to the Household of Faith. These are they who have been called-out and drawn to YAHWEH who came in the flesh and are awaiting HIS return in glory. And these verses teach us something quite awesome. This word thankful in verse 4 is translated from the Hebrew word "yadah". This word actually is found as praise (55), give thanks (32), confess (16), thank (5), make confession (2), thanksgiving (2), thankful (1), etc.; a total of 113 times.

Guess what, the first instance of this word "yadah" we already read tonight. Remember it. We saw in Genesis 29:35 as Leah gave praise to YAHWEH for her four sons.

From what we are seeing, it is obvious that the words praise and thanks can be synonymous to one another. This is why we of the Household of faith must continue to study to consider everything in ELOHIM's WORD precept upon precept, line upon line, here a little, there a little, because there are other Hebrew words translated as praise that have different meanings. For instance, verse 4 says to enter into HIS courts with praise, the Hebrew word "tehillah", which is a hymn or song. While relevant to "yadah", it is a different form of expression of our thanks and our praise. You get the picture.

Let's get some further perspective into the mind of ELOHIM as HE presents HIS WORD to us. Look at the second instance of "yadah". We read of Yisrael's (Yacob) prophecy of his twelve sons recently. Notice his prophecy about Judah (Yehudah) once again.

- Gen 49:8 Judah, thou *art he* whom thy brethren shall praise: thy hand *shall be* in the neck of thine enemies; thy father's children shall bow down before thee.

This word praise is "yadah", yes, the same word translated thankful in Psalms 100:4, and praise in Genesis 29:35. What does this teach us? Does this give you a new perspective of what Yisrael is saying to his other 11 sons, and ultimately to those others who would be called-out "in the last days"? Yes, the COY were prophesied to both praise and be thankful to Yehudah. Why?

- Gen 49:9 Judah *is* a lion's whelp: from the prey, my son, thou art gone up: he stooped down, he couched as a lion, and as an old lion; who shall rouse him up? Gen 49:10 The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him *shall* the gathering of the people *be*. Gen 49:11 Binding his foal unto the vine, and his ass's colt unto the choice vine; he washed his garments in wine, and his clothes in the blood of grapes:

- Gen 49:12 His eyes *shall be* red with wine, and his teeth white with milk.

We already know that this is all about YAHWEH coming in the flesh as YESHUA to HIS own, the COY. Yet, we also know that they, the COY, were not truly thankful for, nor did they truly praise HIM. Yet, they are prophesied to do so. Why should they? Well, we saw what David said. YAHWEH made them. They were the sheep of HIS pasture. David said that YAHWEH is good. And, that they should enter into HIS gates with thanksgiving and praise, blessing HIS name. We know that during that future Biblical time known as “in that day”, Yehudah’s brothers will both praise and be thankful to the offspring of Yehudah, YESHUA.

What about you and I? Who made us? Was it someone other than who made the COY? Believe it or not, this is the cause of much confusion in this world of modernity. It has been made worse because of the deception taught about the identity of the physical descendants of Yacob.

Earlier I mentioned the words of the president of the U.S. to 4 Congresswomen of color. He called them antisemitic for words he says they have spoken against Yisrael. Those who are in power today may see some relevance in his words. Yet, those who are of the Household of Faith should be, and must be thankful, if indeed we are following ELOHIM’s WORD, and ELOHIM’s WORD only. Why, because we should recognize that these types of sentiments are simply folly.

The Apostle Paul taught us in Romans 1:25 that they set themselves up to be wise, yet they are but folly. As such, for the Household of Faith, should we have any faith in today’s political systems? Am I saying don’t vote? No! What ELOHIM’s WORD is proclaiming to us loudly is to not have faith in these systems. If you believe this candidate or that candidate may have some positive bearing on your ability to endure, vote on them.

However, the Prophet King David proclaims to the COY that it is YAHWEH ELOHIM that made them and to HIM alone are they and we to put our trust. We must not confuse the two systems. Notice another instance of the word “yadah” that offers an interesting perspective.

- 2Ch 7:4 Then the king and all the people offered sacrifices before the LORD. 2Ch 7:5 And king Solomon offered a sacrifice of twenty and two thousand oxen, and an hundred and twenty thousand sheep: so the king and all the people dedicated the house of God. 2Ch 7:6 And the priests waited on their offices: the Levites also with instruments of musick of the LORD, which David the king had made to praise the LORD, because his mercy *endureth* forever, when David praised by their ministry; and the priests sounded trumpets before them, and all Israel stood.

The Levites waited with musical instruments that David had made to praise YAHWEH, i.e., to be thankful to YAHWEH. This is the word “yadah”. So, we can show our praise and thanks to YAHWEH through music.

- 2Ch 7:7 Moreover Solomon hallowed the middle of the court that *was* before the house of the LORD: for there he offered burnt offerings, and the fat of the peace offerings, because the brasen altar which Solomon had made was not able to receive the burnt offerings, and the meat offerings, and the fat. 2Ch 7:8 Also at the same time Solomon kept the feast seven days, and all Israel with him, a very great congregation, from the entering in of Hamath unto the river of Egypt. 2Ch 7:9 And in the eighth day they made a solemn assembly: for they kept the dedication of the altar seven days, and the feast seven days. 2Ch 7:10 And on the three and twentieth day of the seventh month he sent the people away into their tents, glad and merry in heart for the goodness that the LORD had shewed unto David, and to Solomon, and to Israel his people.

How many of you recognize that this all was done during the Appointed Time of Tabernacles? This was how the appointed Time of Tabernacles was designed to be kept. And did you notice that all Yisrael kept these eight days in places other than just in Yerushalaim?

You see, congregations cannot come together only on the first day of this appointed time, and then again on the eighth day, and believe that they have obeyed YAHWEH's commandment! The COY obviously spent eight days of praise and thanksgiving for the mercies of YAHWEH. This is what they were commanded to do. What are we thankful for if we are not true to ELOHIM's WORD in its entirety? If the Household of Faith would humble itself to ELOHIM's WORD, as it is given, it would find far greater reasons to celebrate and be thankful to what it has been called to.

- 2Ch 7:11 Thus Solomon finished the house of the LORD, and the king's house: and all that came into Solomon's heart to make in the house of the LORD, and in his own house, he prosperously effected.

Based on the context, it appears that the completion of Solomon's temple coincided with the eight days of the Appointed Time of Tabernacles.

- 2Ch 7:12 And the LORD appeared to Solomon by night, and said unto him, I have heard thy prayer, and have chosen this place to myself for an house of sacrifice. 2Ch 7:13 If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people;

So, this great prayer that many Hebrew Yisraelites love to consider as they face Yerushalaim in their opening and closing Sabbath prayers, and think that they are following, was given by Solomon just after he and the COY had kept the Appointed Time of Tabernacles, for eight days and not just the two days most Hebrew Yisraelites opt for.

Are these who love to signify these words even following Solomon's actions. Don't get me wrong, I'm not here to accuse anyone. Yet, the more we read ELOHIM's WORD, the more we learn of the knowledge of truth and the foundations of HIS mercies.

Look at what follows next.

- 2Ch 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. 2Ch 7:15 Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attent unto the prayer *that is made* in this place. 2Ch 7:16 For now have I chosen and sanctified this house, that my name may be there forever: and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually.

You see that the answer given to Solomon's prayer was and is conditional; humble yourselves, pray, seek, and turn from your wicked ways. Did you also notice that YAHWEH's response was specific to the temple, the house that HE had sanctified with HIS name?

- 2Ch 7:17 And as for thee, if thou wilt walk before me, as David thy father walked, and do according to all that I have commanded thee, and shalt observe my statutes and my judgments; 2Ch 7:18 Then will I stablish the throne of thy kingdom, according as I have covenanted with David thy father, saying, There shall not fail thee a man *to be* ruler in Israel. 2Ch 7:19 But if ye turn away, and forsake my statutes and my commandments, which I have set before you, and shall go and serve other gods, and worship them; 2Ch 7:20 Then will I pluck them up by the roots out of my land which I have given them; and this house, which I have sanctified for my name, will I cast out of my sight, and will make it *to be* a proverb and a byword among all nations.

We all know the failure of Solomon to meet this condition, which leads to this.

- 2Ch 7:21 And this house, which is high, shall be an astonishment to everyone that passeth by it; so that he shall say, Why hath the LORD done thus unto this land, and unto this house? 2Ch 7:22 And it shall be answered, Because they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, which brought them forth out of the land of Egypt, and laid hold on other gods, and worshipped them, and served them: therefore hath he brought all this evil upon them.

We know that after Solomon died, the COY were split into two nations. We also know that the COY were eventually carried away from its land and even until this day remains in captivity throughout the nations of the world. The Household of Faith should know these things. And yet, for those who know these things, are you thankful for this knowledge?

Look at Solomon's original request.

- 2Ch 6:36 If they sin against thee, (for *there is* no man which sinneth not,) and thou be angry with them, and deliver them over before *their* enemies, and they carry them away captives unto a land far off or near; 2Ch 6:37 Yet *if* they bethink themselves in the land whither they are carried captive, and turn and pray unto thee in the land of their captivity, saying, We have sinned, we have done amiss, and have dealt wickedly; 2Ch 6:38 If they return to thee with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their captivity, whither they have carried them captives, and pray toward their land, which thou gavest unto their fathers, and *toward* the city which thou hast chosen, and toward the house which I have built for thy name:

This is what the Hebrew Yisraelites based their doctrine on.

Here in verse 38, Solomon requested that if they pray towards the land, please hear their prayer. Perhaps I'm being picky. However, YAHWEH's response was specific to the temple, not the land or Yerushalaim. Also, HIS answer is totally conditional on their walking in righteousness. If there is no temple currently in the land, does that provide a basis for this doctrine? And, if your congregation only acknowledges 2 days of the Appointed Time of Tabernacles, is it walking in righteousness?

This is certainly worthy of reconsideration, if we are to follow ELOHIM's WORD. This is worthy of consideration because many who have been taught these doctrines believe that in so doing, they are further walking in righteousness. Yet, many of these congregations also refuse the righteousness YESHUA gave to HIS followers as HE was about to die for our sins. We know that the foot washing protocol establishes those who are "of YESHUA". These Hebrew Yisraelite congregations fail to observe the commandments given the COY regarding the Appointed Time of Tabernacles, or the simple commandment of cleansing of fellow brethren given at the Appointed Time of Passover to those twelve disciples (less one), who will someday rule over their descendants for 1,000 years. Unfortunately, being thankful can also be based on blind trust.

So, where does that leave us? What does ELOHIM's WORD teach the Household of Faith about being thankful? Well, the third and final instance of the word thankful in the KJV is found in the New Covenant and provides the answer to the Household of Faith.

- Col 3:8 But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Col 3:9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; Col 3:10 And have put on the new *man*, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

When I started putting this study together, it was simply to be a review of what should those of the Household of Faith be thankful for, based on the WORD of ELOHIM. Now this is important for the Household of Faith to accept. We are supposed to have put on the new man or woman. How is that to be done? The Apostle Paul plainly says that we do this by first putting “off anger, malice, blasphemy and filthy communication out of our mouths”. He then instructs us to lie not to one another. I know that my next statement is probably going to sound judgmental. However, it is what we have read this evening that provides the foundation.

Verse 10 bridges a foundation of a new man, or woman, and their being “renewed in knowledge”. Our knowledge taught us tonight that even the COY obeyed YAHWEH’s commandment to keep all eight days of the Appointed Time of Tabernacles. We know through other studies that those who were chosen to replace the COY as the New Covenant vineyard were commanded to serve in the cleansing of one another through the washing of feet on YEHSUA’s Passover. These are the commandments of ELOHIM. The Household of Faith is instructed to not lie to one another. So, what do we call any person’s instruction to their congregation in modernity to only observe two days of Tabernacles and to ignore YEHSUA’s commandment to HIS disciples to wash one another’s feet at the New Covenant Passover? Is this to be our foundation for being thankful in these times of modernity?

- Col 3:11 Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond *nor* free: but Christ *is* all, and in all.

The basis of our thankfulness should not be based on our physical heritage, but on our MESSIAH ONLY!

- Col 3:12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Col 3:13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also *do ye*.

Do we see the connection between the most important New Covenant upgrade to YAHWEH's Passover commandments, the foot washing service to our fellow Brothers and Sisters? It was given to both cleanse and further bond us together in mercy, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering, forbearance of one another and forgiveness of one another.

- Col 3:14 And above all these things *put on* charity, which is the bond of perfectness. Col 3:15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

And there we have it. We are to be thankful for the privilege of being a part of one body, led by the peace of ELOHIM, walking in charity, the bond of perfectness. In the Household of Faith, there is no such thing as I am Yisrael and you are Gentile. There is only one body that is commanded to operate on the principles we are reading. If we are so doing, this is what we should be thankful for. Are we? Am I? If we are not growing in the oneness of body in MESSIAH, what are we thankful for?

Notice how he then follows up on this thankfulness.

- Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. Col 3:17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

Aren't these words a follow-up to what we read of the COY with the dedication of the temple? Isn't this how they showed their thanks to YAHWEH"? They had a great opportunity which they eventually reneged on.

Now, the word thankful in verse 15 is the Greek word "eucharistos", meaning well favored, grateful. This is the only instance of this word in ELOHIM's WORD. It is representative of the guideline for thankfulness to each member of the Household of Faith, the Church of ELOHIM. This Household, this church, is supposed to be one body, not hundreds of congregations all walking in just a few commonalities, and yet many different congregational doctrines.

This is what the Household of ELOHIM is to be thankful for; to be a part of this prestigious body founded by YESHUA HAMASHIAC. This body walks in the righteousness of YESHUA, accepting all HIS words as truth, knowing that if it endures until the end, eternal life awaits it.

As such, the question for each of us tonight is this. What body of believers are we a part of? The answer to this question directly answers our title question. People profess a mode of thankfulness for many things in modernity. And at times, many who profess to be Christians are those who obviously know very little about ELOHIM's WORD, and yet profess loudly their forms of being thankful. For example, you hear Christians sometimes say, "I am blessed and highly favored". Isn't it odd that this phrase only exists once in ELOHIM's WORD?

- Luk 1:26 And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, Luk 1:27 To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name *was* Mary. Luk 1:28 And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, *thou that art highly favoured*, the Lord is with thee: **blessed art thou among women.**

This attribute of being both “blessed and highly favored” was given only to one person in all of ELOHIM’s WORD, the virgin Mary (Mariam), the woman chosen to become the mother of YESHUA, who was YAHWEH in the flesh. Has there been any other woman who qualified as being “blessed and highly favored” by ELOHIM? The answer is a resounding NO! This is the ignorance that exists in today’s world of modernity that the Household of Faith must discern.

Earlier, we read the following:

- Rom 1:21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

This word thankful is the Greek word “eucharisteo”, slightly different from “eucharistos”. This word occurs 41 times in the New Covenant as give thanks (26), thank (12), be thankful (1). As we discern between the two words, the only true difference appears to be that one is more of an adjective of the entire attitude of the collective members of the Household of Faith. This word “eucharisteo” is a verb, an action that the Household of Faith expresses in its gratefulness for what ELOHIM has done and continues to do for us. Let’s look at some examples to further understand how we should answer the title question.

- Mat 15:32 Then Jesus called his disciples *unto him*, and said, I have compassion on the multitude, because they continue with me now three days, and have nothing to eat: and I will not send them away fasting, lest they faint in the way. Mat 15:33 And his disciples say unto him, Whence should we have so much bread in the wilderness, as to fill so great a multitude? Mat 15:34 And Jesus saith unto them, How many loaves have ye? And they said, Seven, and a few little fishes. Mat 15:35 And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the ground.

- Mat 15:36 And he took the seven loaves and the fishes, **and gave thanks**, and brake *them*, and gave to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude. Mat 15:37 And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the broken *meat* that was left seven baskets full. Mat 15:38 And they that did eat were four thousand men, beside women and children.

This very first instance of “eucharisteo”, sets the tone. It was given by YESHUA HIMSELF as HE gave thanks for the seven loaves and the few little fish that they had. In this regard, YESHUA had already given HIS disciples the following instructions.

- Mat 6:7 But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen *do*: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. Mat 6:8 Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

When YESHUA gave thanks for the bread and the fish it was done boldly, knowing that it was ample to provide for all in faith. This is such a powerful lesson in humility that the Household of Faith must open its eyes to. Providing for the needs of all was what YESHUA gave thanks to. So, when we see the following words, maybe we see it a little differently.

- Heb 4:14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* profession. Heb 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as *we are*, yet without sin. Heb 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Each of us has our individual needs.

Yet, our focus, again based on the words we read, must be focused on the body of YESHUA, the Household of Faith, not simply on ourselves. And remember also, YESHUA came to save the world. These are reasons for us to be boldly thankful.

- Mat 26:26 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed *it*, and brake *it*, and gave *it* to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. Mat 26:27 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave *it* to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; Mat 26:28 For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

The second instance of “eucharisteo” finds YESHUA giving thanks for the cup of wine which from that night forward would symbolically represent HIS blood of the New Covenant, shed for many for the remission of sins.

Notice also that HE “blessed” the bread, representing HIS body. This Greek word is “eulogeo” meaning to give praise, to speak well of. HE gave praise, spoke well of HIS body, and yet gave thanks for HIS blood. Is there a lesson in this for us? Well let’s consider the flow. Perhaps HE was happy that through endurance, HIS body was now prepared to accomplish its commission. This preparation of HIS body now qualified HIS blood to be shed, for which HE was, and we all should be, thankful. Just a thought as we read the context with open eyes together.

As we continue our study, we are guided in the limits of our boldness of thankfulness. Earlier I mentioned that at times we could be thankful for the wrong reason. YESHUA was faithful to guide us appropriately.

- Luk 18:9 And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: Luk 18:10 Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican.

- Luk 18:11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men *are*, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. Luk 18:12 I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.

Here is where ELOHIM's WORD has clearly taught us of the subtleness of the temper. This pray was boastful, not bold. The appropriate boldness before ELOHIM lies in our thankfulness of how we can serve the Household of Faith, not in egotistical boasting.

- Luk 18:13 And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as *his* eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. Luk 18:14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified *rather* than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

Even YESHUA exalted HIMSELF only once the mission was accomplished as HE blessed the bread and gave thanks for HIS blood. What have we accomplished? Moses was the intercessor for the COY, and yet his momentary lapse in judgement cost him.

- Num 20:7 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Num 20:8 Take the rod, and gather thou the assembly together, thou, and Aaron thy brother, and speake ye unto the rock before their eyes; and it shall give forth his water, and thou shalt bring forth to them water out of the rock: so thou shalt give the congregation and their beasts drink. Num 20:9 And Moses took the rod from before the LORD, as he commanded him.

So far Moses appears ready to about to obey YAHWEH and speak to the rock. By speaking to it, he would magnify YAHWEH's commandment.

- Num 20:10 And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock, and he said unto them, Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock? Num 20:11 And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts *also*.

Moses was commanded to speak to the rock, not to smite it. He disobeyed. And for this one disobedience, he paid a price.

- Num 20:12 And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them.
- Deu 32:48 And the LORD spake unto Moses that selfsame day, saying, Deu 32:49 Get thee up into this mountain Abarim, *unto* mount Nebo, which *is* in the land of Moab, that *is* over against Jericho; and behold the land of Canaan, which I give unto the children of Israel for a possession: Deu 32:50 And die in the mount whither thou goest up, and be gathered unto thy people; as Aaron thy brother died in mount Hor, and was gathered unto his people: Deu 32:51 Because ye trespassed against me among the children of Israel at the waters of Meribah-Kadesh, in the wilderness of Zin; because ye sanctified me not in the midst of the children of Israel. Deu 32:52 Yet thou shalt see the land before *thee*; but thou shalt not go thither unto the land which I give the children of Israel.

Moses is listed among the faithful, yet he provided us a valuable lesson on personal spiritual discernment and humility. We can come boldly before the throne of grace only if we are walking in a Biblically perspective of thankfulness, knowing who is in us.

- Luk 18:15 And they brought unto him also infants, that he would touch them: but when *his* disciples saw *it*, they rebuked them. Luk 18:16 But Jesus called them *unto him*, and said, Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. Luk 18:17 Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein.

This is how the Household of Faith must receive the Kingdom of ELOHIM; in humility as little children. This is where our thankfulness should thrive.

- 1Th 2:9 For ye remember, brethren, our labour and travail: for labouring night and day, because we would not be chargeable unto any of you, we preached unto you the gospel of God. 1Th 2:10 Ye *are* witnesses, and God *also*, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe: 1Th 2:11 As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father *doth* his children, 1Th 2:12 That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory. 1Th 2:13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received *it* not *as* the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

For sure, as any human being should be, we are thankful every day that we awake from our sleep and can see the blessings of room and shelter, food and water, the sun and the moon, sons and daughters, husbands and wives, etc. and etc. And yet, as members of the Household of Faith, it is if we know that we have and continue to receive the WORD of ELOHIM, that we have the true reason to thank ELOHIM, to be grateful to ELOHIM. We know also the following additional scripture not in your lists:

- Mat 5:44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; Mat 5:45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

The necessities of life are there for all, the evil and the good; the just and the unjust. This is why the Household of Faith must see beyond the basics. It is the WORD of ELOHIM that separates them. And it is their faith, belief and walk in this WORD that should provide them a unique perspective of being thankful. Yet, this gratitude is based on the knowledge that attaining it comes with a cost.

- Mat 16:24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. Mat 16:25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

These are not easy words to absorb. Yet, they are words that every member of the Household of Faith must seriously consider. YESHUA provides the reason for this willingness to deny oneself for HIM.

- Mat 16:26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? Mat 16:27 For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.

This is why YAHWEH through HIS Prophet Isaiah gave us the process required for spiritual salvation; to go, fall backward, be broken, snared, and taken. And finally, we find why that during all of this, we are given the ultimate reason for our being thankful as we complete this process.

It is to receive our reward according to our works, which include walking in and maintaining HIS appointed times, as HE has commanded us. In so doing, HE is there to help us fulfil our commissions.

- Jud 1:24 Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present *you* faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, Jud 1:25 To the only wise God our Saviour, *be* glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

YESHUA was there for the COY. HE was their ROCK! Were HIS commandments so burdensome? Was their being protected from their enemies, and being provided for their daily sustenance, not worthy of their being thankful?

If we are of the Household of Faith, these considerations are necessary if we are to endure. YESHUA is faithful. Are we thankful for that?

I pray we each count the cost for such a great privilege. Is this a reason for our being thankful? For some of us, we have been in high tide with excitement preparing for the same eight-day appointment that we read that Solomon and the COY partook of in the beginning of tonight's study. We are thankful that we will have the ability to sing hymns of praise, discuss the WORD of ELOHIM, enjoy playful activities together, and break bread together, as commanded for eight wonderful days, knowing that YESHUA will be in our presence, as HE has promised.

The appointed times gave the COY a reason to maintain and remember to whom they should be thankful. The Household of Faith has received an updated guidebook to further understand these appointed times, and why they should be thankful. We sometimes hear some speak of Biblical examples. In fact, we sometimes hear some invent false examples, for whatever reasons. Well, let's close with an example of simple truth by an apostle of YESHUA.

- Act 18:18 And Paul *after this* tarried *there* yet a good while, and then took his leave of the brethren, and sailed thence into Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila; having shorn *his* head in Cenchrea: for he had a vow. Act 18:19 And he came to Ephesus, and left them there: but he himself entered into the synagogue, and reasoned with the Jews. Act 18:20 When they desired *him* to tarry longer time with them, he consented not; Act 18:21 But bade them farewell, saying, I must by all means keep this feast that cometh in Jerusalem: but I will return again unto you, if God will. And he sailed from Ephesus.

The Apostle Paul shares a thought, after enduring the work of his commission, his zeal was to be with his brethren during one of these appointed times.

We each have been given the knowledge of what it means to be of the Household of Faith. As we grow in our knowledge, we also have a responsibility to grow in our convictions that govern the directions in which we are to walk. We know that if we walk accordingly, we truly have our part of YESHUA. There should be no greater reason to be thankful than that.

Continue to grow and walk in grace, being thankful for the unique opportunity that ELOHIM has called you, drawn you, and chosen for you, my Brothers and my Sisters.

Shalom!!