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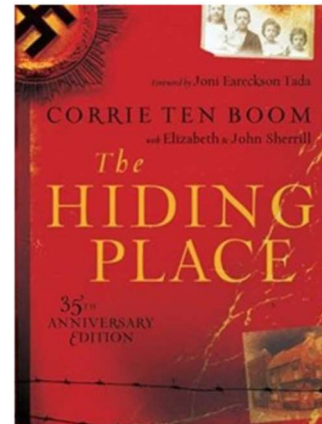
Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Thankful for Lice?

Dear Pastor,

“But Daddy, are you thankful?” When I (Dave Skahen) complain, I typically get this response from my elementary-aged children. Usually, I hear this when I am upset about a restaurant messing up an order, Amazon shipping the wrong size shirt, and so on. My wife and I have done our best to train our kids to be grateful, and the kids are quick to remind us of this.

There have been many sermons about knowing God’s will for our lives. The apostle Paul gives us insight on one of the ways we can know with certainty God’s will for our lives. We read in *1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*, “¹⁶ Rejoice evermore., ¹⁷ Pray without ceasing. ¹⁸ In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” The believer can rejoice always and give thanks in all circumstances, because our joy is not based on circumstances. It’s in what Christ has accomplished for us. Charles Spurgeon once said, “When joy and prayer are married, their firstborn child is gratitude.”



Giving thanks is easy during joyful times but is more difficult during trials. My wife and I have faced some challenges this year. One of them has been my wife’s battle with cancer. Yet, through the midst of heartache, God is still faithful, sovereign, and worthy to be praised. Through the difficulty, Jesus is still enough.

In *The Hiding Place*, Corrie ten Boom talks about being a prisoner in a Nazi concentration camp with her sister, Betsie. Betsie insisted they “give thanks in all circumstances.” Somehow the ladies were successful in smuggling in a Bible, studying it with other women in a dormitory infested with lice and fleas. The guards would not enter the dorm because of how bad the bugs were inside. The guards, not knowing about the Bible study, allowed the ladies to meet, open God’s Word and pray for each other. As strange as it sounds, Corrie was thankful for even the lice and fleas because she saw God’s faithfulness and goodness!

What are you thankful for in this season? Pastor, may I remind you while also reminding myself that if nothing else, Christ is risen, He victoriously defeated hell, sin, death, and the grave, and is still on His throne.

We pray God blesses you as you preach the Word. May we all be sensitive to His promptings to us to be thankful in all circumstances.

In Christ,



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P.S. This week, we encourage you to join us by praying for Representative John Macco (Ledgeview), Representative Greta Neubauer (Racine), and Representative Amy Binsfeld (Sheboygan).