

Don't Take Life For Granted

Human beings are by nature inclined to be ungrateful and to take as a matter of course the countless blessings that the Creator God showers on us every day.

Colossians 2:6-7 [NIV] *“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.”*

We need to keep our thankfulness alive by reminding ourselves how many benefits we enjoy, both as individuals and as a nation.

Colossians 4:2 [NIV] *“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.”*

This is how we can be *“rooted and built up in Jesus Christ.”* Thanking our Creator God for all these blessings. [**Philippians 4:6; Ephesians 5:20**]

We should be thankful for the Christian Church –

With all its faults, the Christian Church, even in these days of decline, still has enough Bible-orientated fellowships to keep the torch of truth burning to illuminate the mind of humanity.

Spiritual darkness where it occurs is the result of human ingratitude and indifference that is the result of the influence of Satan. [**Revelation 12:9**]

2 Corinthians 4:4 [NIV] *“The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”*

The god that most human beings worship today is Satan who masquerades as the bringer of truth and light. [**2 Corinthians 11:12-15**]

We should be thankful for our country –

There is a real danger that the doings of cheap and self-elevating politicians should sour us against our own land. Charges and counter-charges are being hurled back and forth in the political arena.

We must guard against becoming cynical and losing faith in the country in which we live, and the freedom we still enjoy that has been paid for by the blood of many brave humans who loved life as dearly as we, yet lie in the sleep of death, row on row on a hundred battlefields.

We should never think of these humans who sacrificed their lives that we can now live in a free society, without bowing our heads in respect to them and in gratitude to their Creator God.

We should be thankful for family –

Usually we live too close to our own near relations to appreciate them as we should.

Only after they have left us do we discover how much we owe them.

The home is our nursery, our first school, our refuge place from life's rough events and our resting place after the toils of each day.

Allowing for its inevitable imperfections, the family and the home are valuable beyond words.

Father, mother, sister, brother, are we thankful for how much we owe them?

Thankfulness will remind us in our busy preoccupation how much we owe them for the blessings they bring us.

We should be thankful for our friends and neighbours –

Even the most “*friendless*” person, if they stop to think for a moment, will be surprised how many friends they really have.

Even if society are forced to turn their back upon the outlaw, they seldom do it with bitterness.

Even for the morally abandoned will find that there is yet remaining a remnant of brotherly love and mutual sympathy, for they too are human beings.

The newspapers know that the picture of an orphaned baby or a needy family will bring many inquiries from sympathetic people wanting to help.

How much closer and dearer Christian friends are.

To fellow Christians for whom we should be tenderly thankful and never take them for granted.

We should be thankful for the most precious of all friendships, that of our Saviour Jesus Christ [**John 15:13-16**].

Jesus Christ is the One who will be the Friend who “*sticketh closer than a brother.*” [**Proverbs 18:24**]

Jesus Christ has assured us that He will never leave us or forsake us. [**John 14:15-18; Hebrews 13:5-6**]

Let all this knowledge keep us for ever thankful.

We dare not take Jesus Christ for granted, our love for Him and what He has done for all humanity should keep the flame of our gratitude at white heat every day.