

Thanksgiving, Grace, Joy

And He took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is My body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of Me.—Luke 22:19

Jesus was about to be betrayed and crucified. Even though His dark hour was just ahead, He gave thanks. The word for thanks is the same word found in Ephesians 1:16 where Paul says, I “*cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers.*”

When Jesus gave thanks, He was setting the example for us to give thanks in all things. Paul was also giving us the example of giving thanks for other.

The Greek word for giving thanks is *eucharisteo*. This is a compound word: *eu* means good and *charis* means grace. These words describe the outpouring of grace freely flowing from ones heart. Grace is not earned, it is given freely given out of a heart of love.

A derivative of the word *eucharisteo* (thanksgiving) is *chara*. *Chara* means joy. Many search for joy but few find the key to joy is thanksgiving. Out of a grateful heart come grace and joy.

Next week we will observe the Lord’s Table. As you do, I encourage you to do so with thanksgiving. With a grateful heart, focus on God’s great grace. With a heart abounding in thanksgiving and grace God is able to produce real joy.