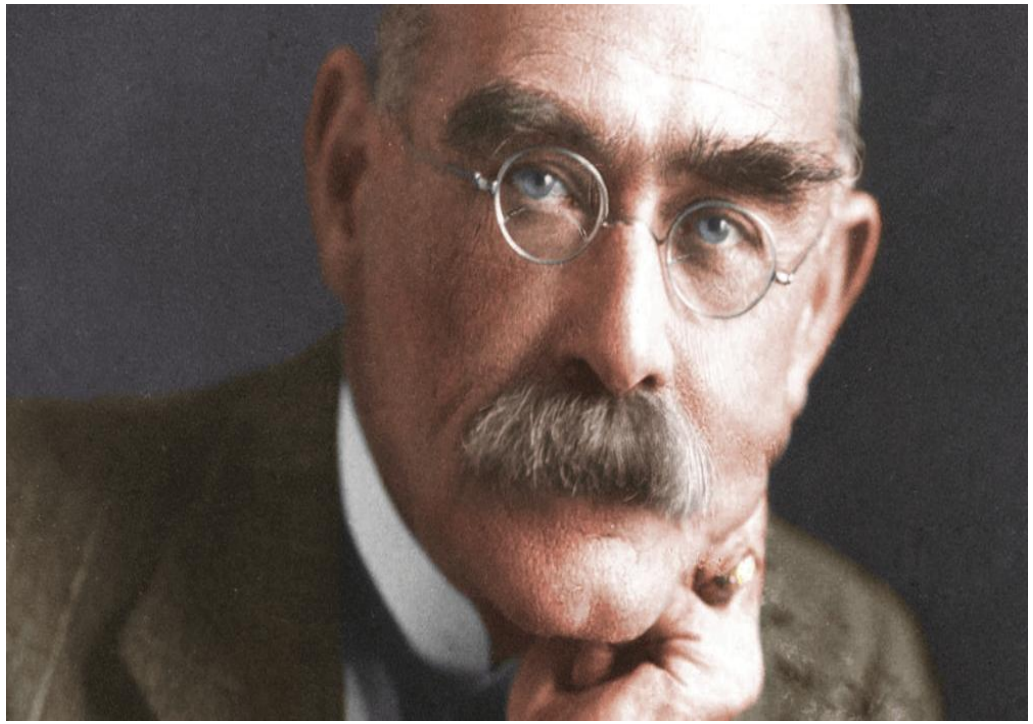
I Corinthians 15:57-58

3 Groups Of Inquiries Into Biblical Thanksgiving



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- “I Keep Six Honest Serving Men” (first stanza)

- I keep six honest serving-men
- (They taught me all I knew)
- Their names are What and Why and When
- And How and Where and Who

- --Rudyard Kipling (1902)



Background/Context



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- Author: Apostle Paul
- Audience: Written (56 AD) to believers in Corinth

- Atmosphere: Detailed explanation of Jesus' resurrection and its impact on believers and Creation

- Biblical Thanksgiving: An active and continual response of praise, confession, and devotion directed toward God for His character, provision, and salvation

Upwardly Focused Questions

- (v. 57) Paul shared the who, what, and why of Thanksgiving

- Who give thanks to? All thanks and praise to God!
- What give thanks for? Victory (over decay, death, and despair)
- Why? Because this victory is given as a free gift

- God is the source and originator of all blessings and provision

- James 1:17, “Every good and perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.”

- 2 Cors. 2:14, “Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, …”

- “As a young man I accepted Jesus Christ and the gift of eternal life. All the rest of my life has been simply a P.S. to that day, saying, ‘Thank you, Lord, for what you gave to me then.’” -former President of Princeton University



Outwardly Focused Questions

- (vv. 57-58) Paul shared the When and Where of thanksgiving; both verses, present tense verbs used
- (v. 58) current, present day conditions listed

- Present tense means, right here, right now

- Thanksgiving is to be daily, present-day activity; giving thanks, expressing gratitude, counting blessings

- I Thess. 5:18, “…in everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

- Ps. 92:1, “It is good to give thanks to the Lord, and to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;…”



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Inwardly Focused Questions

- (v. 58) Here, Paul gives help with the How of thanksgiving
- Thanksgiving expressed through, “thanks-living”

- Steadfast – firmly situated
- Immovable – not budging from convictions
- Abounding – exceeding, more and more
- Vain – not empty or void

- As world gets more selfish, believers shine out with gratitude

- Matt. 5:16, “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

