

**Discussion Questions**  
**Thanks For Everything and Nothing**  
**Ephesians 5:4-21**

(If you were asked by someone to write (in two to five sentences) a list of the most important things to do and not to do, in order to make the best use of your time in this life, what would your list consist of and why?)

*“Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.”—Eph. 5:15-21*

- God has given us the gift of time—what does the above passage seem to reveal to us about how we can make the best use of the time we’ve been given?
- Some of Paul’s advice seems to make sense like: “Don’t be foolish,” but other advice not so much. Out of all the things Paul could have written, why do you think not getting drunk, singing songs, and being thankful hold such importance in his mind?

Paul says, “Give thanks always and for everything.”

- How does that sit with you? Do you really think you should give thanks for *EVERYTHING*—even the bad?
- In what circumstances do you struggle to be thankful? Why do you think you struggle in those areas and maybe not others?
- If we are to thank God for “everything” should we thank him for sin or space and time for sin? In your opinion is sin even a thing or is it a “no—thing?” Are you personally thankful for sin or space and time for sin? Why?

In 1 Timothy 4:4-5 Paul wrote, “*Everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.*”

- According to Paul, when we receive something with thanks it is made holy by the word of God and prayer (1 Timothy 4:4-5). Share your thoughts on this. Have you experienced this in your own life? If so, how?
- Write down five things that you wouldn’t typically thank God for.
- This week take some to genuinely thank God for those things and surrender them to the Word of God—Jesus. See if the way you see or experience those things changes. Do they in any way seem holy?
- Why do you think God allows space and time for darkness, sin, and lies?
- Do you think sin or space and time for sin are a necessary part of our being created in God’s image?
- Do you think it is possible to hate evil and yet still thank God for the space and time for it—knowing that even in the midst of evil God creates good?
- What evil in your world do you hate? Take a moment to imagine how God might one day fill that darkness with his light. Can you imagine it? Can you hope for it? Now try to take a moment to surrender that evil and your hatred of it to the Word of God; pray about it, and receive it with thanksgiving, “*for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.*”

*\*These questions were created by Kimberly Weynen*