BEING THANKFUL EVEN IN BAD TIMES

Rick Warren November 23-24, 2013

"Give thanks <u>in all</u> circumstances, for this is <u>God's will for you</u> in Christ Jesus." 1 Thes. 5:18 (NIV)

I CAN ALWAYS THANK GOD ...

| 1. | FOR |
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| | save yourselves; it was a gift from God." Eph. 2:8 (NCV) |
| | "I willnot forget the glorious things God does for me. He forgives all my sins. He heals me. He ransoms me from hell. He surrounds me with loveHe fills my life with good thingsHe is merciful and tender toward those who don't deserve it; He is slow to get angryHe never bears a grudgeHe has not punished us as we deserve for our sins." Ps. 103:2-10 (LB) |
| 2. | FOR "I have good plans for you, say the Lord. I don't plan to hurt you. I plan to give you hope and a good future." Jer. 29:11 (ICB) |
| | "We know that in all things <u>God works for the GOOD</u> of those who love him, and have been called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28 |
| ·- | FOR "I will never leave you and I will NEVER abandon you." Hebrews 13:5 |
| | "When you go through deep waters, <u>I will be with you!</u> When you pass through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown! When you walk through the fire. you will not be burned up: it will NOT consume you!" |

Isaiah 43:2

4. FOR

"We can have joy even in our troubles because we know that <u>these</u> <u>troubles produce</u> endurance. And endurance produces character, and character produces hope." Romans 5:3-4

"For God is working in you, giving you the desire to obey him and the power to do what pleases him." Phil. 2:13 (NLT)

"As the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like him." 2 Cor. 3:18 (LB)

"But God said to me, 'My grace is all you need. When you are weak, my power is made perfect in you.' So I am happy to brag about my weaknesses. Then Christ's power can live in me!" 2 Cor. 12:9

5. FOR

Jesus: "I am going there to <u>prepare a place for you</u>. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am!"

John 14:2-3 (NIV)

"Then the King will say, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world."

Matthew 25:34 (NIV)

"God has <u>reserved for his children</u> the <u>priceless gift of eternal life</u>; it is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay. And God, in his mighty power, will <u>make sure that you get</u> there safely to receive it because you are trusting him... So be truly glad!"

1 Peter 1:4-6 (LB)

"We often suffer, but we're never crushed. Even when we don't know what to do, we never give up. In times of trouble, God is with us, and when we are knocked down, we get up again ... we know that God raised the Lord back to life. And just as he raised Jesus, he will also raise us back to life, and will bring us into his presence together... SO we don't focus on the troubles we see right now; instead we look forward to what we don't see yet. For the troubles we see now are temporary, but the joys to come will last forever."

2 Cor. 4:8-9, 14, 18