

Schindler's List is a powerful film which contains a few unnecessary scenes that don't add anything to the story. Other than that it's a wonderful story of redemption, courage, deceit, abuse of power and working towards the greater good. In the film there's a conversation between Oskar Schindler and Armand Goeth, the commandant of the concentration camp near the Polish city of Krakow. Schindler is trying to find a way to protect and save from death Jews in the camp.

Amon Goeth: Scherner told me something else about you.

Oskar Schindler: Yeah, what's that?

Amon Goeth: That you know the meaning of the word 'gratitude.' That it's not some vague thing with you like it is with others.

You know the meaning of the word gratitude

Tranzsend DVD: Week 3

To thank is the theme for today – this follows on from to pray and to shine – how did you get on with your postcards? I've found another pile if you didn't get around to it. If you did, may the Lord bless your commitment? You will have given a genuine gift to another Jesus' follower.

We've sung many songs using the words thank/thanks/thanksgiving over the years

Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices

Thank you for every new good morning

Father I thank you for all that you've done

Give thanks with a grateful heart

And of course you'll have your own favourite thank you songs

Plenty of time in the Bible where the word expression thanks is used

Thank 133 times

Thanks and thanksgiving 100 times

In my life as a pastor I see the difference between people who have an attitude of gratitude and those who not only find it difficult to be thankful but find it very hard to see anything to be grateful for, anything to give thanks about.

In my life as a human being I see a difference in my life between an attitude of gratitude and a tendency to be negative or grumbling (last week's message) or being critical. So I'm not speaking this morning from a place of perfection or maturity.

Thanks can be seen as:

I AS PART OF PRAISE WHICH MAY LEAD TO WORSHIP

Psalm 7:17

I will give thanks to the Lord because of his righteousness; I will sing the praises of the name of the Lord Most High.

Psalm 9:1

I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.

Psalm 35:18

I will give you thanks in the great assembly; among the throngs I will praise you.

Psalm 69:30

I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving.

Psalm 95:2

Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.

Psalm 100:4

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

Psalm 106:1

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures for ever.

II FOR GOD'S GREAT SALVATION ACTS IN HISTORY

Matthew 26:27

Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you.

Romans 7:25

Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!

1 Corinthians 15:57

But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 9:15

Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

III IN OUR PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER

Ephesians 1:15-16

For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.

Philippians 1:3

I thank my God every time I remember you.

IV IN THE TOUGH STUFF

Colossians 3:17

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

1 Thessalonians 5:18

Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

SLIDE 7

V AT THE END OF ALL THINGS!

Revelation 7:12

'Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honour and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!'

Revelation 11:17

'We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign.

Do you get the message?

We are to be a grateful people, to know the meaning of gratitude, to be thankful in the varying circumstances of life; to thank someone for being the person they are or someone who has done something for you or who has inspired you.

So again, the task this week is either verbally or by writing, thank someone, communicate with another in Jesus' name.

Thank you to the people who took part in last week's exercise. I trust you were blessed by giving and if you received also. You see I long to be part of a community that appreciates, is grateful and embracing of all – are you reading from that page too?