

Thanksgiving – 2006

Humble Gratitude

The pathway to gratitude is addressing the problem of pride – Genesis 11:1-9; 1 Peter 5:5-6

Main Idea: In the story of the tower of Babel, we see mankind swelling with pride and rebelling against God. We also see God's response, the same response he has against all pride: God humbles the proud, but exalts the humble!

1. **THE SOURCE OF PRIDE – Pride is rebellion against God that shows itself in three ways. 11:1-4**

- A. *The setting* – The whole earth used the same language. 11:1
 - 1. Coming off the ark, Noah and his family all spoke the same language.
 - 2. The universal language prompted great unity of purpose.
- B. *First mark* – Prideful people disregard God's word. 11:2
 - 1. God commanded Noah's descendents to fill the earth. 9:1
 - 2. Disregarding God's word, they instead settle close to where the Ark landed.
 - 3. Prideful people don't see their need for God's word.
- C. *Second mark* – Prideful people find ingenious ways to resist God. 11:3-4
 - 1. The people don't have stones, so they discover how to make bricks. 11:3
 - 2. The people realize they can use bricks to make the ultimate city. 11:4a
 - 3. Prideful people love to use technology as a substitute for God.
- D. *Third mark* – Prideful people are energized by desire for fame and fear of failure. 11:4b-c
 - 1. Fame: The people want to make a lasting name for themselves. 11:4b
 - 2. Fear: The people are terrified of the curse of anonymity. 11:4c
 - 3. Prideful people hate the idea of leaving this earth without a list of accomplishments.

2. **THE SERIOUSNESS OF PRIDE – God will not allow pride to continue unchecked. Genesis 11:5-8**

- A. God sees our pride in vivid detail. 11:5
- B. God knows our pride hinders his work. 11:6
- C. God frustrates our prideful plans. 11:7-9
 - 1. God confuses their language. 11:7
 - 2. The people scatter. 11:8a, 9
 - 3. The people fail in their endeavor. The city is never completed. 11:8b
 - 4. God will often use failure to purge us of our pride.

3. **THE SOLUTION TO PRIDE – The way to overcome pride is to consciously humble ourselves before God as a spiritual discipline. 1 Peter 5:5b-6b**

- A. *The command* – Clothe yourselves with humility. 5:5b
- B. *The reason* – God is opposed to the proud, but he gives grace to the humble. 5:6a
- C. *The expectation* – God will exalt you at the proper time. 5:6b