2 Timothy 3:1-5 You should also know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times. [2] For people will love only themselves and their money. <u>They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God</u>, disobedient to their parents, and <u>ungrateful</u>. They will consider nothing sacred. [3] They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control; they will be cruel and have no interest in what is good. [4] They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God. [5] They will act as if they are religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. You must stay away from people like that. (NLT)

Ephesians 5:3-4 Let there be no sexual immorality, impurity, or greed among you. Such sins have no place among God's people. [4] Obscene stories, foolish talk, and coarse jokes - these are not for you. Instead, <u>let there be thankfulness to God</u>. (NLT)

I was struck by how much the verses in Timothy sound like today's headlines. Piper had this to say: "Notice how ingratitude goes with pride, abuse, and insubordination... Pondering the promises of tomorrow's mercies kindles faith. Gratitude is past-oriented dependence; faith is future-oriented dependence. Both forms of dependence are humble, self-forgetting, and God-exalting. That is one reason they are the opposite of mean spiritedness and violence." (*A Godward Life* Vol. 1 pg. 45)

PRAYER: Lord God help me to continue to be grateful for everything You bring into my life. Help me to be thankful for blessings of yesterday and to trust You for the grace for tomorrow. You are the God of the Past, Present, and Future. Thank You Lord!

Pastor Mark Kieft