

Are These on Your Thankful List?

We've just come through the Thanksgiving season, and despite the chaotic events of 2020, the last few days spent with family, friends and thanksgiving to God for all His blessings remind us of what truly matters in life.

Recently, I came across a list of blessings. Its author is unknown, but it is shared by Byrl Shaver, pastor of the Nappanee Church of the Brethren in Nappanee, Indiana. Perhaps it is a good postlude to our weekend of celebration. Here it is:

I am thankful ...

- For the teenager who is complaining about doing dishes, because that means she is at home and not on the streets.
- For the taxes that I pay, because it means that I am employed.
- For the mess to clean up after a party, because it means that I have been surrounded by friends.
- For the clothes that fit a little too snugly, because it means I have enough to eat.
- For my shadow that watches me work, because it means I am out in the sunshine.
- For a lawn that needs mowing, windows that need cleaning and gutters that need fixing, because it means I have a home.
- For all the complaining I hear about the government, because it means that we have freedom of speech.
- For the parking spot I find at the far end of the parking lot, because it means I am capable of walking and that I have been blessed with transportation.
- For my huge heating bill, because it means I am warm.
- For the lady behind me in church who sings off key, because it means that I can hear.
- For the pile of laundry and ironing, because it means I have clothes to wear.
- For weariness and aching muscles at the end of the day, because it means that I have been productive.
- For the alarm that goes off in the early-morning hours, because it means that I am alive.
- And finally, and most importantly, I am thankful for Jesus who taught us that we have a loving heavenly Father who is mindful of our every need and who will see us through every dark hour.

In His name, we offer thanks. Amen.

As you read these, you can come to the obvious conclusion: Clouds do, indeed, have a silver lining.

In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus (1 Thessalonians 5:18 NASB).

– Beecher Hunter