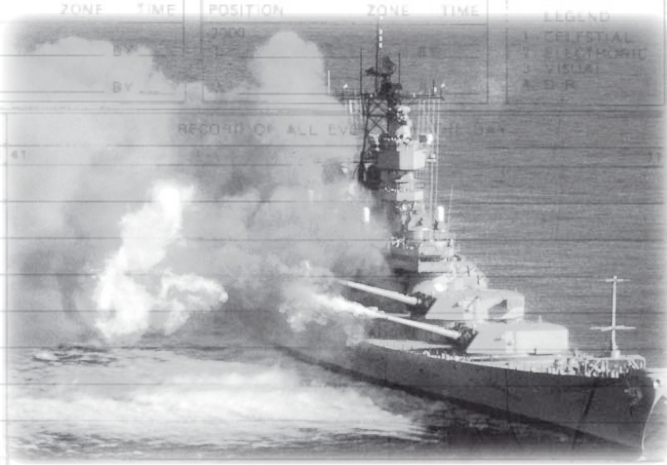# THE GREATEST VIRTUE

"So that always and everywhere you are giving thanks to God." Ephesians 5:20

WARM UP

In Southern Alabama they have erected a monument to an insect, honouring the Mexican boll weevil. In 1895 the boll weevil destroyed the major crop of the county, cotton. In desperation to survive the farmers had to diversify, and by 1919 the county's peanut crop was many times that of cotton, even at its height. In that year of prosperity a fountain and monument were built. The inscription reads: "In profound appreciation of the boll weevil and what it has done to herald prosperity". Out of a time of struggle and crisis had come new growth and success. Out of adversity had come blessing.

BACKGROUND

The early church was a thankful church. The instinct was to give thanks for all things and in all places and at all times. Chrysostom, a great preacher of the early church, said a Christian could even give thanks for Hell, because Hell was a warning to keep him in the right way.

READ   Ephesians 5:15-20

QUESTIONS FOR INTERACTION

1. Share with the group about times that good has come out of a bad situation in your life.

2. St Paul tells us that all things work out for the good for those who trust in the Lord. Share how this gives you courage.

3. What are some of the things that are important for us to give thanks to God for in New Zealand?

4. How does your church bless you?

5. How do you give blessing to each other?

CONSIDER THIS

"If you haven't all the things you want, be grateful for all you don't have that you don't want." Marty Radcliffe

IT'S TIME FOR PRAYER

MY RESPONSE AS A PROMISE KEEPER

Each morning as I rise I will give thanks to God for a new day and that He kept me safe during the night.
At the end of each day when I go to sleep I will thank the Lord for the gift of rest.

WRAP UP

Go around the group and say at least one reason why you thank each of the brothers in the group.