

*But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women would speak. Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips. Job 2:10*

## Be Thankful

Kent Heaton

### Store In My Heart

#### Ephesians 3:6

This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Paul's message in the verse above is unity in Christ. Though he spent several years working with the brethren in and around Ephesus, there were still many who would not fully accept this unity. A major difficulty in the early church was understanding that all were saved in the same manner, no matter their heritage. None were saved by their own actions. All were saved by grace through faithful submission to Christ.

But Paul does not stop there. He continues in the latter half to encourage faithfulness, giving practical examples of their submission to one another in Christ. His final instruction is to stand firm together in the Word of God.

This period of thanksgiving is a reflection upon the many things of which our lives have been blessed. There are so many things to be thankful for and the expression of thanks is just as important as the object of our thanks. To be thankful is a heart that realizes the good things of life in concert with the more difficult parts we struggle with. The giving of thanks is not an absence of the problems faced in life but the grace by which we have been able to overcome them.

Peter expresses the value of true joy when he writes: "In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ." (**1Peter 1:6-7**) The purpose of trials is to bring about humility and understanding of our need for God. Without the challenges of life, we would not grasp the true meaning of being thankful. Through the test of fire, our faith is challenged to stand firm. Through our determined faith to be strong in the Lord, we realize much more to be thankful for. The grace of God means more. Jesus' sacrifice upon the cross grows in dimension to our thanksgiving for His death. Looking for the coming of the Son of God fills our hearts with the voice of gratitude for the hope of eternal life.

The true character of thanksgiving is to realize that where we are today was made possible by sacrifice. The early pilgrims were thankful after a very difficult year of suffering and the blessing of having what they had. Our country was made possible by the valiant sacrifice of the many that died to give us this freedom. Above all of these considerations, the joy of eternal life is made possible by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. The thanksgiving of salvation is found in the heart of those who know and understand the depth of God's love for saving man.

The spirit of thanksgiving is learning to stop and consider what



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**Church of Christ**  
1512 Tanner Street  
Malvern, AR 72104  
(501) 332-8806

## Find Us Online

preacher@tannerst.com

tannerst.com  
FB @TannerStCoC

## For Our Information

Paula Laubach is suffering from knee pain.

Gracie and Jon Ross Simpson have been sick this past week. Vickie McNees and Gloria Hurst have also been sick.

Brenda Keisler and Annette Gray are feeling better.

Phyllis Jackson is helping with Greg & Jessica Keisler's girls this weekend.

Dan & JoBeth Henderson will be in Texas this week.

Pray for safety, courage & healing.

price was paid for my salvation. Was this sacrifice made because of my love for God? **1John 4:9-10** says, "In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins." The love found in thanksgiving can only be understood from the view of God's love for us. Jesus paid the highest price to give us a heart of thankfulness.

We cannot know true thanksgiving and the spirit of sacrifice until we experience our own sacrifice. Freedom is best lived when freedom is given to others. The price Jesus paid on the cross can only be lived when we pay the price of being His disciple. It is then we begin to feel the full weight of thanksgiving. Our hearts understand more the true nature of why we are to be thankful. "As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving." (**Colossians 2:6-7**)

The closer we come to Christ, the more we have to be thankful for. The more we have to be thankful for, the more we will give thanks. Our prayers will reflect our heart of gratitude to God when we lift up our praises unto Him. "Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving ... And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful." (**Colossians 4:2; 3:15**)

# Why Be Thankful To God?

Jack Wise, Jr.

During the Thanksgiving holiday many people take into account of what they are thankful for. Usually the thanks revolve around personal gains or wealth or families. Let's take a moment to reflect upon something even greater. God owns the earth and the fullness thereof, **Exodus 19:5; 1Corinthians 10:26**. He is the creator of this magnificent planet and all that exists and lives, **Genesis 1:1**. Even the heavens declare the glory of God, **Psalms 19:1**. The stars are numbered and He knows each by name, **Psalms 147:4**. He even knows the number of hairs on your head, **Luke 12:7**. God owns your body, **1Corinthians 6:20**, and He cares enough to fill your hearts with food and gladness. (**Acts 14:17**) And when we think God not could provide us with anything more, He sent His only begotten Son who loved you more than life itself, **Romans 5:8**. Jesus death has given all mankind a way to eternal life in heaven, **John 3:16**. Why be thankful? God is our strength and our refuge and trust is in Him, **Psalms 62:7-8**. He loved us first, **1John 4:9**, and that beyond measure! Learn more, have a study!

We seek only to serve God according to His Will!

