

# The Bulletin

## Meeks St. Church of Christ

1201 Meeks St. Corinth, Ms. 38834  
Phone – (662) 808-7777

Visit Our Website at:  
MeeksstreetchurchofChrist.com

**November 21, 2021**

### ***“Abounding Through Many Thanksgivings To God”***

By R J Evans

We are so fortunate to live in a country that realizes the need to set aside a special day of “Thanksgiving.” Our nation celebrates this holiday on the fourth Thursday in November — this coming Thursday. However, as Christians, every day should be a day of “thanksgiving” because we have innumerable blessings that come from God each day of our lives.

The Apostle Paul gave much encouragement to the Corinthians concerning the matter of their giving to the needy saints in Jerusalem. He used the churches of Macedonia as an example of some who gave with joy, liberality, willingness, and beyond their ability — despite the fact they were in deep poverty (II Corinthians 8:1-7).



After instructing them to give purposefully and cheerfully (II Corinthians 9:7), he went on to assure them that “For the administration of this service not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God” (II Corinthians 9:12). Take note of the last phrase of this text where he said, *“abounding through many thanksgivings to God.”*

In order to truly receive God’s bountiful blessings, we must be thankful to God. The matter of giving thanks unto God should come first and foremost in everything we receive. The Apostle Paul told the Thessalonians “in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ for you.” (I Thessalonians 5:18).

Paul instructed the Philippians to *“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.”* (Philippians 4:6).

The more we are thankful, the greater the abundance of the blessings that will be received. The parable of the prodigal (wasteful) son demonstrates an attitude of ingratitude. He desired to get all that was his, get as far away from his family as he could, and then go out and enjoy himself in “prodigal living.” However, it became his road to disaster.

Finally, while in the pigpen, when he came to himself, he became thankful and appreciative for what he had back home, and determined with all his heart to go back with the intention of simply becoming one of his father’s hired servants. We know the joyous ending of this return to his loving father (Luke 15:11-24).

This story is a good illustration of how prosperity and wastefulness can produce ingratitude — a failure to be thankful and recognize God as the source of all blessings. See the warnings against this kind of failure in Deuteronomy 6:10-12 and I Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19.

Thankfulness was an attribute of Jesus while here on earth. When He prayed to His Father, He would thank Him for a number of blessings. Before He fed the multitudes, He gave thanks for the food. *“Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass. And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He*

*blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes” (Matthew 14:19); “And He took the seven loaves and the fish and gave thanks, broke them and gave them to His disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitude.” (15:36).*

When he raised Lazarus from the dead, He thanked His Father for hearing His prayer: *“Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me.” (John 11:41-42).*

Before He gave His disciples the bread and the cup in the memorial of His death (the Lord’s Supper), He gave thanks for the bread and for the cup (Matthew 26:26; Mark 14:22; Luke 22:19-20; I Corinthians 11:24-25).

Being thankful is not an option in the life of a Christian if he wants to be spiritually strong — it is a must! David expressed it this way: *“Surely the righteous shall give thanks in Your name; The upright shall dwell in Your presence.” (Psalms 40:13).*

The Apostle Paul said: *“speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Ephesians 5:19-20).*

The giving of thanks is the will of God in our lives. We will enjoy even greater blessings by being thankful for those we have already received. It must be so heartbreaking to God when we are ungrateful for the things that He has provided for us. This is very evident when Jesus healed the ten lepers, but only one of them came back to give thanks for what He had done for him. Jesus responded by asking — “Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine?” (Luke 17:11-19 ). We can just sense the sadness on His part when He asked these questions.

Let us genuinely practice being thankful; it will truly enrich our lives. *“I will praise the name of God with a song, and magnify Him with thanksgiving.” (Psalms 69:30).*

## **“Before We Post”**

By Doy Moyer

Before we post, before we respond, before we engage, before we meme, before we act... Let this passage sink in:

*“Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.” (Colossians 4:5-6)*

Why do I think about this passage so much? Honestly, because I have failed it so much and I wish that I had thought more about it before violating it. I think there are a few proverbs about this...

Here's one: *“There is one who speaks rashly like the thrusts of a sword, But the tongue of the wise brings healing.” (Proverbs 12:18)\*

The greatest healing ever offered is through Jesus Christ and his gospel. Bring the gospel to the table of all that we do, and we will never regret that.

### **1 Peter 5:6-7 (NKJB)**

*“Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.*



**News and Notes:** Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, June Lawson (Lisa Busby's Mom), Debbie Keplinger, Janis Johnson, Daniel Holloway, Peggy Harville (cancer), Estell Wright, Linda Hunt, David Taylor, Randy Beaty, Sam Johnson, Sherry Doles, Randy Ferrell, J F Dancer, & Earl Mitchell, and Betty Hurst.

LuAnne Parish is recovering at Corner Stone room B15.

Prayers for the Cole Family in Ky. (Lost two family members)

Daniel Holloway tested positive for Covid.

**Those Who Serve:**

**Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:**

<b>Opening Prayer:</b>	Sam Johnson
<b>Preaching:</b>	Brian Meade
<b>Sermon #1:</b>	<i>"A Study Of Eternal Life"</i>
<b><u>Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:</u></b>	
	2 Corinthians (Mike Willis)
	<i>Page #10, Question #12</i>
<b><u>Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:</u></b>	Fred Johnson
<b>Announcements:</b>	Russell Briggs
<b>Opening Prayer &amp; Scripture Reading:</b>	Lee Busby
	<i>Philippians 2:14-15</i>
<b>Song Leader:</b>	Dan Cottrell
<b>Lord's Supper:</b>	Paul Johnson
<b>Assisting:</b>	— —
<b>Preaching:</b>	Brian Meade
<b>Sermon #2:</b>	<i>"How To Be UnThankful"</i>
<b>Closing Prayer:</b>	Doug George

**Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.**

**November 24th:**

<b>Auditorium Bible Class:</b>	Paul Busby
	Book of Isaiah
	<i>Page #6, Question #1</i>
<b>Invitation:</b>	Brian Meade
<b>Song Leader:</b>	Dan Cottrell
<b>Closing Prayer:</b>	Paul Johnson



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# **“A Study Of Eternal Life”**

## **Lesson Text: 1 John 5:11-13.**

– The phrase “eternal life” or “life eternal” occurs 44 times in the New Testament (14 places the KJB has “everlasting life”). In the four gospels, John uses it the most at 17 times and 6 times in his book of 1 John. Matthew, Mark, and Luke use the phrase 8 times, Luke uses it twice in the book of Acts (Acts 13:46,48), Paul uses it ten times in his letters, and once in Jude (Jude 21).

### **1. What Is Eternal Life?**

– The Meaning of Life Eternal:

The Greek word: Zoe, “is used in the NT “of life as a principle, life in the absolute sense, life as God has it, that which the Father has in Himself, and which He gave to the Incarnate Son to have in Himself, John 5:26, and which the Son manifested in the world, 1 John 1:2. From this life man has become alienated in consequence of the Fall, Eph. 4:18,”

*(Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words (Vol. 2, p. 367).*

– Distinct from physical life- **John 5:40— John 10:10-11.**

– One can be alive physically, yet not have eternal life- **1 Timothy 5:6; 1 John 3:15.**

– Eternal Life is the same as the “*crown of life*” **James 1:12; 2 Tim. 4:8; Rev. 2:10.**

### **2. When Is Eternal Life Given?**

– Now or In The Future? **1 John 5:11.**

– Eternal Life is the Promise of God- **2 Timothy 1:1; 1 John 2:25; Hebrews 6:11-12.**

– Eternal Life Is Our Inheritance- **Mark 10:17; Matthew 19:29; Luke 10:25.**

– Eternal Life is Also Our Hope- **Titus 1:2; 3:7.**

– “*Hope That Is Seen is Not Hope*” **Rom. 8:24-25.; 1 Timothy 6:12—v.19; Jude 21.**

– “*the Hope laid up for you in heaven*” **Colossians 1:5; Philippians 3:12.**

– At The Resurrection- **2 Corinthians 5:1-4; 1 Corinthians 15:50-54.**

– At The Judgment— **Matthew 25:46; Romans 2:5-7; Romans 6:21-23; Gal. 6:7-8.**

– How is it spoken of as our possession now? **Romans 4:17-18 (Genesis 17:5).**

### **3. Is Eternal Life Conditional?**

– To Receive It Is Conditional:

**1. Coming To Jesus, The Source of Eternal Life- John 5:40; 1 John 5:11-12.**

**2. Believe In Jesus- 1 John 5:13; John 3:36.**

**3. Obey Jesus- John 10:27-28; Hebrews 5:8-9; 2 Timothy 1:10; 2 Thess. 1:7-9.**

**4. What if we do not believe and obey Jesus? What if we do, then become unfaithful?**

**5. Notice The Conditional Nature- 1 Timothy 5:6; Hebrews 6:4-6; 10:25-35;**

**1 John 3:15; Revelation 2:10.**

# **“How To Be An UnThankful Person”**

Lesson Text: **2 Timothy 3:1-2.**

## **I. Enjoy Your Blessings- Don't Worry About Where They Came From.**

1. Ignore what the Bible says about being thankful to God and Others!
2. Don't Ever Memorize- **James 1:17; Ephesians 5:20; Colossians 3:15 & 17; 1 Thessalonians 5:18; Hebrews 13:15.**
3. Forget the People Who Help You- **Genesis 40:20-23; Luke 17:17.**
4. Remind Yourself That You Did All This For Yourself- **Deuteronomy 8:11-18.**

## **II. Whenever You Have Good In Your Life, Quickly Remind Yourself It Should Be Better!**

1. Never Be Content When It Could Be More- **1 Timothy 6:6-8.**
2. After all, you can never have enough stuff to enjoy! **Proverbs 30:15-16; Ecclesiastes 5:10.**

## **III. Make Sure To Write Down All Down All The Bad Things That Happen to You, And Repeat Them Often.**

1. Never Practice- **Philippians 2:14; 1 Peter 2:1-2.**
2. Keep a Journal of everyone who has done anything to upset, hurt, or injure you in any way. Take Time To Read That List every day!
3. Forget about **1 Corinthians 13:4-5.**
4. Be Sure To Tell Everyone About It- **Matthew 18:15.**

## **IV. Practice Using Negative And Unkind Words To Use Daily.**

1. Don't Ever Be Optimistic and Positive About Anything!
  - Don't quote **1 Corinthians 13:6-7; Philippians 4:4-5.**
2. Ignore What The Bible Says About Love And Kindness and Press On!
  - **1 Corinthians 13:4; Ephesians 4:32; Proverbs 31:26.**
  - Use Phrases Like: “It just never gets any better!”  
“I've tried and tried, and it makes no difference!”
  - Use Words Like: Can't, Won't, Never, Horrible, and misery....

## **V. Learn To Be Selfish, Self-Absorbed, And Self-Centered.**

1. Make Life All About You And You Won't Have To Share Anything.
2. Don't Do As Paul Says in **Philippians 2:3-4;** Or Jesus in **Matthew 16:24-25.**
3. Make All Your Prayers Be About Yourself- **Luke 18:11.**

## **VI. Then You Will Be A Very Unhappy, Unthankful Person Indeed!**

- But what have you gained?
- Who Wants To Be Associated With You?
- How Can You Influence Others For Good?