

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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November 18, 2018

“Count Your Blessings....”

By Brian Meade

Thanksgiving Day is coming this Thursday November 22, and is one of my favorite holidays for a variety of reasons. 1. You get to be with family. 2. You get to eat turkey with dressing (or ham), sweet potato casserole, cranberry sauce, green beans (yes, I am thankful for green beans, and broccoli too!), & mashed potatoes.....with your family! 3. You get to show appreciation for all you have been blessed to have in your life from God!



Many families will offer prayers to God for the blessings they enjoy (as is only proper). They will even go around the room and ask each one to say what they are most thankful for. I like that tradition! It gets us to *count our blessings*— and like the song we sing— *name them one by one*. We all need to take an inventory of how much the Lord has truly blessed us! And it should be that Thanksgiving should not just be for one day, but a way of life for all of us! In fact, the Bible tells us in **1 Thessalonians 5:18**, “*in everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.*” So let us spend some time looking at why we all need to be thankful:

1. The Material Blessings That God provides For Us.

We need to be thankful for the house we live in— one that is provided by God for us to spend our days here. And whether you live in a mansion, a bricked home, a double or single wide trailer...we certainly are blessed with a place to lay our head. Our homes have so many modern conveniences that make life easier and more comfortable for us. Sometimes we complain about the power and water utility bills being so high, but could you imagine our homes without running water or electricity so readily available by just a flip of a switch or a turn of the knob?

I remember the older generation that spoke of such things as having to use candlelight or lanterns to see by at night and having to go out to the well to draw water to drink, bathe in, and wash dishes. Could you imagine the time it would take to build a fire so you could have warm water to bath in?

Not to mention having air conditioning in the Summer-time to keep us cool and heat in the Winter-time to keep us warm. These advancements in technology have been a great blessing to us indeed!

Automobiles are another way we have been blessed to get where we need to go very efficiently. As we often say, automobiles get us from point A to point B. Can we imagine having to walk from place to place wherever we wanted to go or needed to be? Driving in our car from Corinth to Tupelo Takes approximately 52 minutes, but to walk the same distance takes 17 hours and 21 minutes non-stop! It would likely take us two days walking that distance to get to Tupelo, Ms.



Not to mention, driving out of State to places like: Pigeon Forge, Tn. (a 5 day, 1 minute walk),



Atlanta, Ga. (a 3 day, 23 hour walk), or to the city of Pikeville, Ky (a 6 day, 16 hour walk). My family and I will definitely be appreciating the vehicle we drive in to Pikeville, this coming week!

Some might be tempted to say that we owe all the gratitude to Thomas Edison for inventing the lightbulb, Benjamin Franklin for discovering electricity, to Henry Ford for inventing the automobile, to the Orville and Wilbur Wright for inventing the airplane, to Alexander Graham Bell for inventing the telephone, to Willis Carrier for inventing the air conditioning unit—and we do owe a lot to these men for many reasons, but they did not create these inventions all by themselves. Ultimately, it all goes back to our Creator for giving them the ability, the ingenuity, and the resources here on planet earth that He created for us to use. **(Genesis chapters 1-2; See also Exodus 31:1-11)** Truly, all wisdom comes from God. **(Proverbs 2:6; Daniel 2:20)**

Everything we own really belongs to God, and is given to us as stewards to control. Notice what **Psalm 24:1** says, **“The earth is the Lord’s, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein.”** And in **Psalm 50:10**, **“For every beast of the forest is Mine, The cattle on a thousand hills.”**

We only use these material blessings while we are blessed to live here by God our Creator. We may inherit land and houses and money and material possessions for a while, but one day they will all perish at the last day **(2 Peter 3:10-12)**.

For now, God has graciously blessed the good and the evil alike in material blessings **(Matthew 5:45)**. But it is only those who know where these material blessings come from who bless the Creator **(Daniel 4:34-36; 1 Timothy 4:3-4)**.



2. The Spiritual Blessings That God provides For Us.

A good place to start with thanking God for spiritual blessings is found in the Old Testament, in the 103rd Psalm of David. The title is *“a Psalm of David”* and even though the words *thanks* and *thankful* are not specifically used — the thankfulness for being in fellowship with God is clearly seen.

David expresses great thankfulness for being an Israelite, one of God’s chosen people, who had received God’s compassion, grace, forgiveness, and lovingkindness throughout the 103rd Psalm. It is clear that David is expressing his appreciation to God for all He has done for us in saving us from sin’s bondage! And as God’s people sung that song, they too would say, **“Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget none of His benefits.”** **(103:2)**

Spiritual blessings are different in nature than the physical blessings that anyone can enjoy by virtue of living on the earth. As we are going to see, spiritual blessings are reserved only for those who have a restored relationship with their heavenly Father. Sin destroys that relationship **(Isaiah 59:1-2)** and in the New Testament, we must obey the gospel to be reconciled to God **(Ephesians 2:1-16; 2 Thessalonians 1:8-12)**.

In the New Testament age that we live, we truly can say that we have been blessed by God in so many ways! **(Ephesians 1:3)** Let us count our blessings as Christians today:

1. Forgiveness. It all starts with God’s forgiveness of our past sins. We cannot thank God enough for the grace, mercy, and forgiveness brought about by the death of God’s Son— Jesus Christ **(John 3:16-17; Luke 24:46-47; Acts 2:38-41; Revelation 1:5)**. Obedience must be given to God for this great blessing to be enjoyed. One must believe, repent, confess Christ, and be baptized into Christ to enter this new relationship **(2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 3:26-27)**.



2. Prayer. By prayer we have the only access and communication through this very important avenue— **1 Peter 3:12**. God speaks to us through his word and He wants us to come to Him in prayer for our daily needs, concerns & problems, and in behalf of others **(Matthew 6:11-13; 2 Tim. 2:1-6; Hebrews 4:16)**.

2. God’s Wisdom & Understanding. When we are faced with difficulties in knowing what to do in life, it is a blessing to know that God can and will help us to know the way **(Proverbs 3:5-7; Psalm 119:130)**. **James 1:5** tells us, **“But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.”**

3. Citizenship in God’s kingdom. Do we value as we ought the blessing of being in the kingdom of God’s Son **(Colossians 1:12-14; Hebrews 12:22-28)**. Many don’t show enough appreciation by failing to attend regularly and faithfully worshiping God as they should.

4. The Hope of Heaven. And finally, do we appreciate the hope of one day entering the rest for the people of God **(John 14:1-6; Hebrews 4:1-12; 1 Peter 1:3-9)**. As we count our blessings, may we look to the spiritual more than the physical— yet be thankful for all **(James 1:17)**.

News and Notes: Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Steve Switcher, Nicky Curtis, Martha Norvell (Mississippi Care), June Lawson (Lisa Busby's Mom), Clois Wright, Debbie Keplinger, Gaddy Hall, Janis Johnson, Daniel Holloway, Tammy Kilgore (Jerry's niece), Betty Hurst, Peggy Harville (cancer), Prayers for the family of Karey "Chunk" Trimble who passed away last week. Delain Doles has moved to the Meadows Nursing Home at Fulton for rehab. (Visiting hours are 3:30 pm to 8:30 pm)

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer:

Paul Busby

Preaching:

Adam Harris

Sermon:

"Barriers to Thanksgiving"

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Paul Johnson

The Book of John (Mike Willis)

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Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements:

Paul Johnson

Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:

Fred Johnson

Nehemiah 12:43-46

Song Leader:

Dan Cottrell

Lord's Table:

Paul Busby

Assisting:

Lee Busby & Tim Harris Jr.

Singing Service:

Men of the Congregation Lead Songs

Invitation:

Jerry Kennemur

Closing Prayer:

Tim Harris Sr.

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

November 21st:

Auditorium Bible Class:

Russell Briggs

1 & 2 Kings (Mike Willis)

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Invitation:

Paul Johnson

Song Leader:

Paul Busby

Closing Prayer:

Tim Harris Sr.