

“BE YE THANKFUL”

Scriptures are plentiful in God’s Word that remind Christians to be thankful. The Psalmist noted that one is to “*come before his presence with thanksgiving*” (Psa. 95:2). The presence under consideration is Almighty God! The apostle Paul speaking by inspiration stated on three occasions: “*giving thanks always for all things unto God,*” “*be ye thankful,*” and “*in nothing be anxious; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God*” (Eph. 5:20; Col. 3:15; Phil. 4:6). All people should be grateful for the blessings that flow from God’s bountiful hand, but Christians should especially be thankful for the unique blessings that belong to them.

The Psalmist is quick to remind the reader that the Word of God is to be laid up in one’s heart so that sin might not occur (Psa. 119:11). But this requires a love for the law (Psa. 119:97) – more love for God’s laws than for the world and its pleasures (1 John 2:15-17). Joshua makes it clear that everyone has choices to make (Josh. 24:15), and so each person must decide if he is **for** or **against** God (Matt. 12:30).

Peter admonishes that “*as newborn babes, long for the spiritual milk which is without guile, that ye may grow thereby unto salvation*” (1 Pet. 2:2). Such a “longing” or “desire” is to be characteristic of the child of God throughout his life. The writer of the epistle to the Hebrews warns of those who should be teachers but instead have need that someone teach them again God’s truths (Heb. 5:12). One can cease to be thankful, cease to study and mature in Christ, and cease to be zealous toward spiritual matters. Some claim one cannot **lose** what he once **possessed**, but the Word of God begs to disagree. Peter again states, “*For if, after they have*

escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein and overcome, the last state is become worse with them than the first. For it were better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after knowing it, to turn back from the holy commandment delivered unto them. It has happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog turning to his own vomit again, and the sow that had washed to wallowing in the mire” (2 Pet. 2:20-22).

One’s attitude toward God and spiritual matters is of tremendous importance. There are indicators that reveal just how thankful one may or may not be. Please consider carefully the following questions.

1. Am I faithful to the Lord and His church? How can one who refuses to assemble with the saints on a regular basis consider himself faithful to the cause of Christ? The Bible warns that the assembly must not be forsaken (Heb. 10:25). One is not thankful who treats spiritual matters with indifference.
2. Do I make time to study the Word of God on a regular basis? One does not lie down at night and wake up the next morning rooted and grounded in the truth! One who is thankful for what Christ has done will put forth a diligent effort to study the Sacred Scriptures (2 Tim. 2:15).
3. Am I regular in prayer? Prayer is one way we demonstrate to God how thankful we are. The created must always recognize his dependency and need of the Creator. Saints are to “*pray without ceasing*” (1 Thess. 5:17). One does not know what the “*supplication of a righteous man*” can avail (James 5:17).

4. Do I make every effort to flee from evil (1 Thess. 5:22)? Am I willing to give worldliness a wide berth? Will I choose to forego what is popular for what is right? Do others view my life as an exclamation point or a question mark? One who is thankful for the sacrifice of Christ will **not** see how close he can come to the broad gate without actually entering therein (Matt. 7:13-14).

5. Do I examine myself in light of God’s Word? Paul admonishes, “*Try your own selves, whether ye are in the faith; prove your own selves*” (2 Cor. 13:5).

There is always the ever-present danger of the child of God being sidetracked by the fiery darts of Satan and forgetting the blessings uniquely his as a citizen of the heavenly abode. One must keep things in their proper perspective as he travels through this life. Failure to do so will keep one from possessing a heart of thanksgiving, and this can start a chain reaction that leads to eternal ruin.

Remember that if Heaven be our goal we can learn whatever state we are in to be thankful and content (Phil. 4:11). A faithful Christian can **always** rejoice because his citizenship is in Heaven (Phil. 3:20). May we ever be grateful that this eternal city is ours to claim! Let us strive to manifest a spirit of thanksgiving to our Heavenly Father each day that we are privileged to live and then gratefully serve in the wonderful kingdom of His dear Son!

Marvin L. Weir from *Bonham St. Beacon*

“And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.”
Colossians 3:15

ANNIVERSARIES

George and Linda Thomas, 09-14.
John and Barbara James, 09-21.

BIRTHDAY

Melissa Cole, 09-20.

ILL

Sunday: Millie Robertson; Steven and Debra Schleif.
Wednesday: Millie Robertson.

Those battling cancer: Ledgia Campbell, Betty James and Cleo Stone. Please remember these in your prayers.

HOME BOUND

Kathleen Camp is in Room 101 at the Royal Terrace Nursing Home in Olathe. Marion Stone is in Room 408 at Villa St. Francis. Barbara James' Aunt, Evelyn Marquardt is at Sharon Lane in Shawnee. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

OUT OF TOWN

The Nemechek's are in Hutchison, KS visiting relatives. The James' are camping in Columbia, MO. The Parish's are in Davenport, IA and Chicago, IL.

NEW ADDRESS

Trent and Leah Thrasher are now residing at: 16515 S. Lyons Street, Gardner, KS 66030. Phone: 913-884-8242.

MID-WEST LECTURES

The **Mid-West Lectures**, will be held **September 20-24**. **Tuesday, September 22** is "**Olathe Day**." Please bring your desserts to the building this Sunday evening.

FALL GOSPEL MEETING

Our **Fall Gospel Meeting** with **Don Boyd** will be held **September 27 - October 1**. Take some flyers and invite your friends, family, neighbors, and associates!

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, NA; Sunday PM, NA; Wednesday PM, NA.

Those To Serve

September 20, 2009

BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Parish

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Joel Nelson
SONG LEADER..... Trent Thrasher
OPENING PRAYER Stanley Anderson
PRESIDE..... John Dodson
ASSIST..... Chris Edwards
ASSIST..... Steven Schleif
CLOSING PRAYER..... George Thomas

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER Jared Nelson
CLOSING PRAYER..... Jeff Nemechek
LORD'S SUPPER..... John Dodson

WEDNESDAY 23rd

SONG LEADER..... Jared Nelson
INVITATION John Cody Carter

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Morning Worship 10:30 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

Phone: (913) 764-2325

E-mail: olathecofc@sbcglobal.net

CHURCH OF CHRIST

515 WEST PARK

P.O. BOX 482

OLATHE, KANSAS 66051

www.kc-cofc.org/olathe.htm

www.oabs.org/olathe.asp