

2005 Proclaimer

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, .. to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord!" -Isa.61:1-2

A teaching and exhortation medium by members of the Carmichael Church of Christ, meeting at 6044 Sutter Ave. Carmichael, CA 95608

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IN EVERYTHING GIVE THANKS

by Gordon Wilson

Surely there must be times when the atheist is the saddest person on earth. As a human being, possessed of the very same noble impulses that all of us have from time to time, he must occasionally feel very sorry that there is no one whom he can praise. Just like everybody else, the one who denies the existence of God will have moments of reflection in which he will feel quite grateful for his daily bread –but grateful to whom? Gratitude must have a person upon whom it terminates. But the atheist has no one to thank for the good gifts of life.

But how different are we from the unbeliever when we fail to give thanks to the one from whom all blessings flow? Perhaps one of the greatest failures of God's own children is our failure to thank Him for the varied mercies and bounties that we receive from day to day. I do not mean only in public prayers, where a cursory, "We thank thee" is the custom –but a heartfelt and frequent breathing of thanksgiving in our daily devotions in private.

We teach our children, for the sake of politeness, to say "thank you" when some favor is done them, or some gift is made to them. None of us can stand to be around children who grab anything extended in their direction and run with it, not stopping to thank the giver. Certainly if we want to teach our children the meaning of gratitude, the best way to go about it is to set them an example by often saying thanks to our own Father who is in heaven.

"Giving thanks unto the Father, who made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light, who delivered us out of the power of darkness, and translated us into the kingdom of the Son of his love, in whom we have our redemption, the forgiveness of our sins." (Col 1:12-14). "And whatsoever you do, in word or in deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." (Col 3:17). "In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus to you-ward." (1 Thess 5:18). "I exhort, therefore, first of all, that supplications, prayers, intercessions, thanksgivings, be made for all men." (1 Tim 2:1).

We ought not to take life's good things for granted. Among the things for which we should give thanks are material blessings. Without the sunshine and the rain, without the germ of life in the seed, without the strength to sow and reap, none of us would be fed. But these are things that heaven alone can supply. That they are supplied to the just as well as the unjust—the evil as well as the good—is all the more reason why Christians, who know their source, should praise God for all material blessings. We can thank God, too, for our education. The laws of the mind and the principles of human learning are His gifts; and how fortunate we are to live among a people who place a premium on education. Whether we realize it or not, it is this very thing that has permitted our standards of living to be raised to the highest level ever known among any people of the earth. And while we are at it, let us thank God that His providence has granted us in this time and place a degree of personal liberty unsurpassed in human civilization. Above all these things, let us say "thank you" to the Father for the spiritual blessings freely given to us in our Lord Jesus Christ.

But we say thanks to God in deed as well as in word. Our appreciation to Him ought to be

expressed every time we bow our heads to speak with Him in prayer; at the same time our lives should reflect our gratitude as we walk with Him and before Him in humble obedience and in loving sacrifice. ###

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"AND BE YE THANKFUL ..."

Vern Wilson

The humble, submissive, gentle, loving attitude we're to have toward each other is just to be representative of the kind of people we are – **IN OUR HEARTS!** Paul is not laying anything on these brethren that all other Christians, from the day of Pentecost to our present time, are not to be manifesting every day of our lives! He calls us "*brethren,*" and says we're "*chosen of God, holy and beloved,*" and says we're "*chosen of God, holy and beloved,*" and that we're to "*put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience: bearing with one another and forgiving each other*" – and that our attitude to each other ought to be just like the Lord's attitude was to US! **"AND BE YE THANKFUL!"**

SO, it would be superfluous of me to tell you to be sure to be "**thankful**" on Thursday, because that's "Thanksgiving Day". We're to be "thankful" EVERY DAY! Our attitude in thanksgiving and appreciation for what the Lord has done is ALSO a beseeching on our part for the Lord to CONTINUE! If we truly want the Lord to continue to bless us, we need to continue to STATE our thankfulness for what we have and ARE! But if we neglect to acknowledge His presence and graciousness in our lives we're saying, essentially, that **He owed it** to us, or **we'd have gotten it anyway,** or that **He showed me (one of His children) no preference** over an antagonistic atheist!

It should be really easy for us to be thankful and joyous at such a happy time of year. The fall season is showing us painted scenes more beautiful than any artist could put on canvas, we're facing the holiday season that brings tasty meals and loving friends close to us. **AND BE YE THANKFUL!** ###

Lost and Unaware

A lady tells of taking her grandsons, ages four and six, to spend the day at Disneyland. During the course of the day she bought each of them a little flag. On several occasions they stopped to watch a marching band of toy soldiers, and each time the boys would be thrilled as the band marched by.

All at once the grandmother realized that the four-year-old, Mickey, was gone. She searched all about, calling his name, and making her way through the crowd. As she sat down to catch her breath and try to figure out what to do next, she looked up to see the marching band of toy soldiers. There, at the end of the line, smiling merrily and waving his flag, was Mickey. He was having the time of his life, completely unaware of the fact that he was lost. *

Many in the world today are like that little boy: going on their merry way, UN-AWARE that they are *LOST IN SIN!*

The Bible teaches that without Christ, WE are "lost" in our sins. The Apostle Paul describes those "WITHOUT CHRIST" as: "HAVING NO HOPE and WITHOUT GOD in the WORLD" (**Eph 2:12**).

In this condition not only are we CONFUSED about the proper direction in life, but we are also DOOMED to eternal destruction because of our sins (**2 Thess 1:7-9**).

But, JESUS came into the world "to SEEK and to SAVE that which was lost" (**Luke 19:10**). Through Jesus we can find not only the proper direction for our lives (to follow Jesus, **Matt 16:24**), but also an eternal reward after this life is over (**Matt 25:46**; **Rom 6:23**).

Jesus made our salvation possible by dying on the cross as payment for our sins (**2 Cor 5:21**). The LOST can be "found" when they believe in Jesus (**Acts 16:30-31**), repent of sin (**2 Cor 7:9-10**), confess Jesus before men (**Rom 10:9-10**), and are baptized (immersed) into Christ (**Acts 2:38; 22:16**). Then those who continue to follow Jesus will never be lost again (**1 John 1:7**).

Without Christ, WE CAN KNOW that we are lost. Yet with Christ, WE CAN KNOW that we have been found!

Won't YOU surrender your life to Him so that you can be found in Him?

---David A. Sargent

THE SICK AMONG US

Edith Ayers
Frank Ayers
Tina Ayers
Carly Cain (Placerville)
Sue Claiborne
Helen Gray
Margaret Holcomb
Chuck House
Catherine Kay (Escalon)
Tony Moyer
Jean McCarty
Millie McCreary
Jeffry Pennant
Kaye Pennant
Irma Rapier
Debbie Reagan & family
LaurieAnn Reagan
Jacob Robertson
Taylor Romine
Oliver Sasse (Brush Prairie)
Rena Schultz
Geneva Shelton
Ken Sterling
Ola Thornburg
Nancy Valine
Bill Westphal
Ellie Williams
Gordon & Glenda Wilson
Maxine Wilson

TRAVELING IN THEIR WORK

Rick Rittenhouse
Gordon Wilson

IN THE MILITARY

Michael Mendez
Aaron Robertson
Trent Walsh

MEMBERSHIP IN THE BODY OF CHRIST

1 Cor 12:20-27

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Our personal obligations in fulfilling God's purpose cannot be ignored if we really desire that eternal home with Him.
 - 1. God's wisdom is shown by His people being organized in His work.
- B. IF we overlook God's wisdom in our organization, it will be to eternal peril.
 - 1. We must be an integral and dependable part of a local church's work!
- C. The local church is to resemble a human body, its HEAD BEING CHRIST, its work being MUTUALLY DEPENDENT and its love being MUTUALLY EXTENDED.
 - 1. That membership activity must involve participation in God's work.

I. LOCAL CHURCH MEMBERSHIP IS A COOPERATIVE INVOLVEMENT IN ETERNAL-LIFE ACTIVITIES AMONG GOD'S PEOPLE!

- A. NECESSITY REQUIRES IT if we're to be functioning under the Oversight of an Eldership who will feed, guide and protect God's sheep!
 - 1. The office we commonly call elder has been given the duty of shepherding the local church in which he is appointed: Acts 20:28
- B. Saul s Example EXEMPLIFIES It: Acts 9:23-31
 - 1. In this account, the man soon to be rechristened "PAUL" wants to be part of those disciples and to be in fellowship in their work and worship!
 - 2. One must decide where he can best serve the Lord, and get busy doing it!

II. GOD'S PEOPLE ARE TO BE KNIT TOGETHER IN LOVE

- A. Knit Together by Joints and Ligaments: Col 2:1-3, 18-19
 - 1. Paul appeals to the image of a human body to illustrate the relationship that every Christian has to others in the church.
 - 2. Paul lists the benefits of this symbiotic relationship
- B. How Is This Accomplished
 - 1. The number one way in which a Christian edifies another is our simple, dependable presence: Heb 10:24-25
 - 2. In Bible classes, the interdependence of experience, wisdom and knowledge is evident and EDIFYING. Col 2:3
 - 3. Burden-bearing: Gal 6:1-2

III. A PROPER FUNCTIONING CONGREGATION MUST BE COOPERATIVE FOR SUCCESS IN THE LORD'S WORK!

- A. EVERY PART MUST DO ITS SHARE: Eph 4:11-16
 - 1. Note that we are joined and knit together by what every part supplies.
 - 2. What is your share?
- B. ALL DON'T HAVE THE SAME FUNCTIONS: Rom 12:3-8
 - 1. Whatever spiritual talent you have is from God and can be used to His glory and the edification of his body, so use it. Matt 25:14-30
- C. WE MUST REALIZE WE'RE MEMBERS OF ONE ANOTHER: 1 Cor 12:20-27

CONCLUSION:

- A. There are financial costs in addition to other dues necessary to maintain our local church membership.
- B. EVERYTHING DEMANDED OF US AS CHRISTIANS is the wisdom of God in executing His mission and caring for His sheep.