

4th & Stewart church of Christ

"...upon this rock I will build my church;
and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."
~ Matthew 16:18



June 23, 2013

Contact Us:

3201 4th Street
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325-646-7102
www.4thstreetcoc.org
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Meeting Times:

Sunday:

Bible Study 9:45 AM
Worship..... 10:40 AM
Care, Inc. Service..... 2:30 PM
Worship..... 6:00 PM

Tuesday:

Redstone Class..... 9:30 AM

Wednesday:

Ladies Bible Class On Break
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Elders:

Gene Bannister..... Billy Chism

Deacons:

Mike Bannister..... Jim Moore

Don Smith..... James Thomas

Preacher:

Ryan Smithey.....

Works We Support:

Cherokee Home for Children
Gospel Broadcast Network
Heart of Texas Bible Camp (Bangs)
House to House, Heart to Heart
Mission Printing
Rohan Jones, Africa
The Truth in Love
World Bible School

Let us know if you want to study
the Bible to know more about
Christ and His Church.

Thanksgiving in Prayers

By Mike Bonner

Prayer, which is our communication with God, is vital to the life of the child of God. As a matter of fact, it is the lifeline that keeps us connected to God upon the earth. However, it is the most neglected privilege we have! Prayer is our opportunity to kneel in total submission as we worship God in true reverential awe. When we explore the attitude of thanksgiving to God in our prayers, it is necessary to notice the emotional tie that is connected to being thankful! The woman wiping Jesus' feet with her tears and hair was showing reverence and thanksgiving for who He was to her (Luke 7:44).

So why should we be thankful to God? The Psalmist stated. "God is good" and Ezra said the same things about the Lord (Psa. 73:1; Ezra 8:22). God is good to us at all times, and we should recognize that when we kneel in prayer to Him. God wants us to be thankful in everything as well, regardless of the situation which befalls us, we **must be thankful** (1 Thess. 5:18). When the church assembles on the first day of the week—or any other day—prayers, supplications and thanksgivings should be offered up to God for all men! Also, keeping His bountiful love and provisions in mind allows us to be swift to remember the blessings we have in Christ (1 Tim. 2:1-3).

What is thanksgiving? When directed to God, it is praise or worship rendered. It is the outpouring of one's gratitude for receiving blessings from Him (Matt. 6:1-34). In Luke chapter seventeen Jesus talked about ten lepers and how they were **all** healed, but only **one** came back to give thanks. What a tragedy (Luke 17:12-17)! The one who came back was a Samaritan man who rendered gratitude to the Lord! Very encouraging! How often do we find ourselves really expressing our thankfulness to God for His care and concern for us? Do our hearts burn within us to thank Him for the opportunity to worship Him in spirit and in truth (John 4:23-24)? Are we grateful to spend time in great fellowship with the saints in the light (Psalm 133:1)? Are we thankful to live in a country where we have freedoms to worship the one true God without fear of persecution? This is another reason to be gracious! What an honor it is to have appointed times to talk to God about our concerns and be appreciative about the salvation and peace we have in Christ (Col. 3:15). This act of worship should in no wise be confined to the worship assembly.

We must also cultivate our younger generations to develop thanksgiving unto the Lord. When this mindset fails, it sets man on a course to be unthankful for the bounty which has been unequivocally given to him by the Lord (Rom. 1:21; 2 Tim. 3:2). This lack of cultivation and departure from being taught the straight and narrow way will cause one to forget that he has been purged from his old sins (2 Pet. 1:9). Furthermore, being unthankful can cause one to lose faith and depart from the living God.

There is a barrage of passages showing what we should be thankful for, when we should offer thanks, and our attitude of thankfulness. Notice what Paul said to the

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But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.
2 Thessalonians 2:13-14

One author wrote, "Prayer is to religion what deep research is to science; it is a deep learning about God and about our own spirit." So where do we go to deepen

our prayer life? Psalms is God's handbook for praise and prayer. In fact, the book was originally divided into five sections with the first being titled, *The Book of Prayers* (1-41).

Preparation to Pray (Psa. 5:1-3). Prayer preparation requires man to ponder: "Give ear to my words, O Lord, consider my meditation" (v. 1). "Meditation(s)" is found 20 times in the Bible and 15 of them are found in the Psalms. God is not only able to listen to our words but also our innermost thoughts that at times are too hard to be uttered (Rom. 8:26-27).

Prayer preparation requires man to be **pointed**: "Hearken unto the voice of my cry, my king, and my God: for unto thee will I pray" (v. 2). We sing a song titled, "Where Could I GO?" In times of distress, we always have one who will listen. Although David was a king, God was his King, the King of all kings.

Prayer preparation requires man to be **persistent**: "My voice shalt thou hear in the morning..." (v. 3). Brother Winfred Clark wrote, "This prayer would be heard in the morning, that means, every morning. David was not a 'one hit wonder' in his prayer life. He continually and constantly brought his pleas to His Father (1 Thess. 5:23).

Prayer preparation requires man to be **prioritized**: "O Lord, in the morning..." (v. 3). There is not activity in the morning more important than prayer. "The first hour is to the day what the rudder is to the ship, therefore pray in the morning."

Prayer preparation requires man to be **planned**: "will I direct my prayer unto thee" (v. 3). The word, "Direct" means "To set things in order." It was used to describe the placing of the pieces of the animal sacrifice in order on the altar (Lev. 1:8). It was used to describe the arranging of the wood on the altar (Gen. 22:9). It was used to describe setting of a table before guests (Psa. 23:5). Spurgeon wrote, "We too often rush in to the presence of God without forethought or humility."

Prayer in the Psalms

Rob L. Whitacre

Prayer preparation requires man to be **purposed**: "and will look up" (v. 3). Elijah "...said to his servant, Go up now, look toward the sea. And he went up, and looked, and said, There is nothing. And he said, Go again seven times. And it came to pass at the seventh time, that he said, Behold, there ariseth a little cloud out of the sea, like a man's hand. And he said, Go up, say unto Ahab, Prepare thy chariot, and get thee" (1 Kings 18:43-44). Perhaps we are not seeing our prayers answered because we are not looking in the right direction.

Prayer preparation requires man to be **personal**: "I... my..." (vv. 1-3). Public prayers are pointed, but private prayers are personal. Sadly for some, the only time their thoughts come before God are in the public assembly.

Presentation of Prayer (Psa. 5:4-10). Prayer needs to be **pure** in His presence: "The foolish shall not stand in thy sight..." (vv. 4-6). "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me" (Psa. 66:18). God will not live in the parlor of our hearts if we entertain the devil in the cellar of our thoughts.

Prayer needs to **praise** His presence: "I worship toward thy holy temple" (v. 7). The mercy of God allows man to come before Him, and the fear of God allows man to pray before Him.

Prayer needs the **piloting** of His presence: "Lead me, O Lord..." (v. 8). Prayer helps to bring the thoughts of man into the captivity of Christ because he is always our prayer leader!

Prayer needs the **punishment** of His presence: "Destroy thou them..." (vv. 9-10). These prayers are called Imprecatory. This is a prayer where an appeal is made to the wrath of God with eagerness (12, 35, 37, 58, 59, 69, 79, 83, 109, 139, 140). An imprecatory prayer is not a cry for personal vengeance. This prayer is offered because of sins against God. It is a plea for a Holy and Righteous God to perform His Justice, and thereby reclaim His glory and honor. Man has struggled with how to harmonize the love of God with

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Television	God's Plan for Redeeming Man	Bible Study Schedule
<p>The Truth In Love (Robert Dodson) Sunday @ 7:00 am on KTAB</p> <p>In Search of the Lord's Way Sunday @ 7:30 am on KTAB</p> <p>Gospel Broadcasting Network Online: 24/7 @ gbntv.org and on Roku TV: Sunday @ 6:30 am on Dish: 267, DirectTV: 376</p>	<p>Hear Learn the saving message of Christ's sacrifice (1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 10:17).</p> <p>Believe Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24)</p> <p>Confess Jesus as your Lord, Lawgiver, and King (Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32-33)</p> <p>Repent of your sinful conduct (Luke 13:3,5)</p> <p>Complete your initial obedience to the gospel by being baptized for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)</p>	<p>Week 78 Job 27-32 & 2 Corinthians 6-7</p> <p>Study sheets are available at the back of the auditorium.</p> <p>Also anyone interested can join us at 5 PM each Sunday in the fellowship hall to discuss the questions and answers.</p>
<p>Radio</p> <p>Preaching the Word (Michael Light) Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3</p>	<p>Live faithfully (Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:7-8)</p>	<p>"...desire the sincere milk of the work, that ye may grow thereby;" (1 Pet. 2:2)</p>



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church of Christ at Philippi, “Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.” Notice how our request should be made: with thanksgiving (4:6). This attitude of gratitude is not only purposeful but consistent in action (Col. 4:2). This frame of mind should be expressed for the food we consume on a daily basis (Matt. 6:11; 1 Tim. 4:4)! What an opportunity to express our love and appreciation to the Lord for giving us the strength to work and provide meals for our family and friends (Acts 17:28)!

God has provided a place of security and sacredness for us to abide while we’re waiting for the inheritance that awaits us. The Psalmist realized the beauty and importance of entering into the house of God at the appointed time. Notice, “Enter into his gates with **thanksgiving**, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.” Paul encouraged the body of Christ to be thankful to be in the church where all spiritual blessings are enjoyed (Col. 3:15; Eph. 1:3). Friends, let us never lose that thankful attitude which is necessary for spiritual growth and longevity. Let’s be like Christ, Who thanked the Father for giving Him authority over all flesh, and like Paul who always thanked the Father for the church (John 17:1-3; Eph. 1:16). **Be thankful!**

Visitation Meeting

Remember our visitation meeting each Sunday night following the evening worship to sign cards and discuss the work going on. Last week **21 contacts** were made.

Upcoming Events: Mark your calendars in advance:

- ◆ June 25: **Summer Youth Series at Hamilton**. If you need a ride, please contact Ryan in advance and we can make plans for transportation; we will be leaving the Brownwood area about 5:30 PM.
- ◆ June 24-28: VBS at Ranger
- ◆ June 30– July 4: Jr. Camp at Brady
- ◆ July 14-19: Sr. Camp at Brady
- ◆ August 14: We will be hosting the final Summer Youth Series here at 4th & Stewart.
- ◆ October 20-23: Our Spring Meeting with Rick Popejoy

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these prayers. Regarding this struggle, C. S. Lewis pointed out: “We don’t hate sin enough to get upset at the wickedness and godlessness around us. Bombarded as we are by so much media evil and violence, we’ve gotten accustomed to the darkness.”

Product of Prayer (Psalms 5:11-12). Prayer brings delight: “rejoice...joy...joyful” (v. 11). Prayer brings defense: “because thou defendest them” (v. 11). Prayer brings blessing: “For thou, Lord, wilt bless the righteous” (v. 12). The product of prayer gives much more than it requires!

The Psalms are the key that unlocks the secrets of man’s inner being. It heals the mind of man by teaching him how to praise and pray to God. It brings man to the Greatest Physician and Counselor who has ever lived (Isa. 9:6). If you find it difficult to say your supplications or pronounce your prayers, use the Psalms. Prayer is the central avenue God uses to transform us into the image of His Son.

Celebrate

“Rejoice with those who rejoice...” (Romans 12:15)

June Birthdays: Hannah Smithey (03), Mike Bannister (04), Caleb Dennis (06), Loutrell Dobbins (08), Shannon Dennis (13), David Greer (26), Stormy Barnum (27), Ashley Kahlich (29).

June Anniversaries: Lasha & Joe Dennis (05), Laverne & James Thomas (05), Mileen & Wayne Kahlich (19), Lisa & David Greer (28).



Records

	June 9, 2013	June 16, 2013
Bible Class	40	49
AM Worship	58	65
PM Worship	51	52
Wednesday PM	40	46
Contribution	\$1481	\$1667

	This Week: 6/23/13	Next Week: 6/30/13	June 2013	
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: James Fuller	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox	Make Announcements: Jim Moore	
Greeters	The Maninger Family	Jim Moore & Hank Wheeler	Prepare Communion: Don & Darlene Smith	
Opening Prayer	Garrett Barnum	Ken Maninger	Clean Building: The Smithey Family	
Communion	Gene Bannister*, Tom Wilcox Ken Maninger, Don Smith	Joe Dennis*, John Barnum Allen Griffith, Hank Wheeler	Keep Grounds: Tom Wilcox	
Closing Prayer	Allen Griffith	Don Smith		
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell/Xavier Martinez	Chase Churchwell/Xavier Martinez		
Sunday PM:			July 2013	
Opening Prayer	James Thomas	Jim Moore	Make Announcements: Gene Bannister	
Scripture Reading	Jim Moore <i>Philippians 2:12-18</i>	James Fuller	Prepare Communion: The Smithey Family	
Communion	Gene Bannister	Joe Dennis	Clean Building: Jessica Stultz	
Closing Prayer	John Barnum	Billy Chism	Keep Grounds: Tom Wilcox	
Wednesday Devotionals:	June 26 Allen Griffith	July 3 Tom Wilcox	July 10 Garrett Barnum	July 17 Jim Moore

Search the Scriptures

Be like the Bereans who "received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." (Acts 17:11)

Studies for the week of June 23, 2013	Sunday Class Titus 1-2 Wednesday Class Redemption Through The Bible
<p>We Believe, Therefore We Speak (2 Corinthians 4:13) Paul, quoting Psalm 116, speaks of his like faith in which his confidence in God motivates his proclamation of the gospel.</p> <p>1. Confidence in God and His Message (4:1-7)</p> <p>a. Paul humbly knew he was a servant and a messenger of God; his confidence lay not in himself, but in God (3:5; 4:1-2, 5-7; cf. 1 Cor. 2:1-5; 3:5-7; 4:1-4).</p> <p>b. The source and truthfulness of his message relied not in himself but God (Gal. 1:11-12); this must be our same message and same confidence today.</p> <p>2. Confidence in Spite of Suffering (4:8-12)</p> <p>a. Suffering would make some quit (Matt. 13:20-21); thus we have encouragement against such (Matt. 5:10-12; 2 Tim. 3:12; 1 Pet. 4:12-13, 16).</p> <p>b. But Paul's confidence in God (affirmed by experience) meant he would be faithful in living and preaching, in spite of such (1:3-11; 11:23-28; 2 Tim. 1:8-13; 2:8-13).</p> <p>c. Will we be faithful, will we proclaim the gospel, even when it is difficult? Or will we quit? It depends where our confidence lies.</p> <p>3. Confidence in View of Eternity (4:13-18)</p> <p>a. Paul knew one day all his preaching and suffering would be worth it for himself and those who obeyed gospel (Rom. 8:18; 2 Tim. 4:6-8).</p> <p>b. He <u>knows</u> there is a home/reward awaiting after the judgment for all of those in Christ (2 Cor. 5); and so with this confidence he keeps proclaiming the gospel.</p>	<p>Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5: 1-11) We can learn much from those recorded in Bible, even "negative examples" in which we learn not to follow their mistakes; such are these two—both to the early church and today.</p> <p>1. Don't Allow The Sins Of Others To Derail You</p> <p>a. Their sin did not mean the church failed; it should not turn anyone away from following the truth. God's design was still perfect; but it was made up of imperfect people.</p> <p>b. It was necessary for the sin to be addressed (cf. 1 Cor. 5:6); but once dealt with, it should cause the sinner and others to be more mindful of their actions and attitudes, which it did (v5, 11; 2 Cor. 2:7-8, 7:9-11).</p> <p>2. Watch Your Influences (both those who influence you and the influence you have on others)</p> <p>a. Sometimes those who should be a blessing to us, may be a curse. These two neither supported one another or the church in what was right. (cf. Gen. 2:18, 3:6)</p> <p>b. They followed each other into sin and could have encouraged others in such (1 Cor. 15:33; 2 Cor. 6:14).</p> <p>c. What of our influences; who are we watching and what are others seeing (2 Tim. 4:12; Phil. 1:27; 3:17; etc.)?</p> <p>3. Be Careful Of Your Motives</p> <p>a. It seems possible they wanted the honor that had been given to Barnabas (4:36-37) without paying the cost.</p> <p>b. If so they had a problem with pride (Prov. 16:18; Matt. 6:1-2), love (1 Cor. 13:1ff), and humility (Phil. 2:3-4; James 4:10). What drives us, vanity or love?</p>