



WEEKLY SERMON

Volume No. 2023 Issue No. 41
November 12, 2023

Sunday November 12, 2023

Teacher – Tom Dowling

Message: Character

Phone: 717-715-3317

E-mail: pastormiklas@aol.com

Text: See lesson

Thanksgiving is not merely a day to be observed once a year. For the Christian, it must be a way of daily living. In Psalm 92:1 we read, **"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto Thy name, O Most high."** The worship most acceptable to God comes from a thankful heart. So in this devotional, let the question before us be "Are You Thankful?"

David gave thanks for the wondrous works of God in Psalm 26:7. He spoke **"with the voice of thanksgiving."** In 1 Chronicles 23:30, we read that the Levites were **"to stand every morning to thank and praise the LORD, and likewise at even."**

When the secret of Nebuchadnezzar's dream was revealed from Heaven in a night vision, Daniel gave thanks by saying in Daniel 2:23, **"I thank thee... O thou God of my fathers, who ... hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee."**

In Nehemiah 12, Nehemiah dedicated the wall of Jerusalem with **"thanksgiving"** and in that way appointed two great companies to **"give thanks."**

In Amos 4:5, Amos exhorts Israel to repent by saying, **"Offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving."**

In Acts 5:41, the apostles suffered persecution, but gave thanks to be **"counted worthy to suffer shame for Jesus' name."**

At God's throne, the angels worshipped God, by saying in Revelation 7:12, **"thanksgiving... be unto our God."**

Paul often wielded his pen in thanksgiving. Paul was in peril of his life in Damascus, coldly suspected by his fellow believers in Jerusalem, persecuted in Antioch, stoned in Lystra, assaulted in Iconium, beaten with many stripes and put in jail at Philippi, attacked by a lewd and envious crowd in Thessalonica, pursued by jealous enmity in Berea, despised in Athens, blasphemed in Corinth, exposed to the fierce wrath of the Ephesians, in prison without his freedom, in winter without his coat, in court without friends, in poverty without aid. But in none of these was he without his hymn of thanksgiving.

Jesus, Son of Man without sin, Son of God with power, gave thanks. Jesus gave thanks for food. In Mark 6:41 we read, **"And when he had taken the five loaves and the two fishes, he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and break the loaves."** Are you, like Jesus, grateful for food?

Jesus was thankful for personal gifts. When Mary, in John 12:7, with uncalculated love broke the costly box of precious nard and anointed His head and feet, He defended her against her critics and immortalized her deed.

Jesus was thankful for friends. In John 15:15 He said, "**Henceforth I call you not servants...but... friends.** "

Jesus was thankful for helpful service. When seated on the throne under a new relationship, He will recall kindness done to Him and His people. In Matthew 25:34-36 we read, "**Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father ... For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: was thirsty, and ye gave me drink:... Naked, and ye clothed me:... sick, and ye visited me.**"

Jesus was thankful for revealed truth. In Matthew 11:25 He said, "**I thank thee, O Father ... because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.**"

Jesus was thankful for answered prayer. In John 11:41 we read, "**And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me.**"

This week may the words of the song "Thank You, Lord" written in 1940 again be a blessing to you.

**Some thank the Lord for friends and home, for mercies sure and sweet;
But I would praise Him for His grace in prayer I would repeat:
Some thank Him for the flowers that grow, some for the stars that shine.
My heart is filled with joy and praise because I know He's mine.
I trust in Him from day to day; I prove His saving grace:
I'll sing this song of praise to Him until I see His face.**

**Thank you, Lord, for saving my soul;
thank you, Lord, for making me whole.
Thank you, Lord, for giving to me
Thy great salvation so rich and free.**

In *His* Amazing Grace
Pastor David Miklas

"Seeds of Discouragement"

In II Chronicles 15:7 we read, "**Be ye strong therefore, and let not your hands be weak: for your work shall be rewarded.**" If Satan had a barn for storing his weed seeds, the biggest vats would be filled with discouragement seeds, for he's constantly sowing them in the hearts of faithful Christians. Many pastors are utterly worn out. Missionaries, seeing little tangible progress, are disheartened and ready to give up their work. Lay workers sometimes ask themselves, "**Am I doing any good or is this a waste of time?**"

We don't always see immediate and impressive results from our labors, but God promises that our work shall be rewarded. Paul told us in I Corinthians 15:58 to be always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing our labor in Him is not in vain.

We have barns, too, filled with Gospel seed. The Bible promises in Psalm 126:6, "**He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.**" So according to Galatians 6:10 don't give up or grow weary in well-doing; for in due season, we'll reap a harvest if we do not lose heart..

Solomon Lived In Great Pleasure But Died With Great Regrets

Ecclesiastes 1:1-8, "The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem. (2) Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity. (3) What profit hath a man of all his labour which he taketh under the sun? (4) One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh: but the earth abideth for ever. (5) The sun also ariseth, and the sun goeth down, and hasteth to his place where he arose. (6) The wind goeth toward the south, and turneth about unto the north; it whirlleth about continually, and the wind returneth again according to his circuits. (7) All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea is not full; unto the place from whence the rivers come, thither they return again. (8) All things are full of labour; man cannot utter it: the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing."

Ecclesiastes 12:1-14, "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them; (2) While the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars, be not darkened, nor the clouds return after the rain: (3) In the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble, and the strong men shall bow themselves, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those that look out of the windows be darkened, (4) And the doors shall be shut in the streets, when the sound of the grinding is low, and he shall rise up at the voice of the bird, and all the daughters of music shall be brought low; (5) Also when they shall be afraid of that which is high, and fears shall be in the way, and the almond tree shall flourish, and the grasshopper shall be a burden, and desire shall fail: because man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets: (6) Or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern. (7) Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it. (8) Vanity of vanities, saith the preacher; all is vanity. (9) And moreover, because the preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yea, he gave good heed, and sought out, and set in order many proverbs. (10) The preacher sought to find out acceptable words: and that which was written was upright, even words of truth. (11) The words of the wise are as goads, and as nails fastened by the masters of assemblies, which are given from one shepherd. (12) And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh. (13) Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. (14) For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."

Bible Study Objectives:

1. Bible study tells us what is right and what is wrong, how to get right and stay right: (II Timothy 3:16)
2. Bible study provides us with details that will prevent us from really hurting ourselves: (Psalms 119:105, 130)
3. Bible study should never be engaged in without front end loading it with this prayer: (Psalms 119:18)

Clara H. Scott in 1895 wrote, Open my eyes that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me, place in my hands the wonderful key, that shall un-clasp and set me free. Open my ears that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear, and while the wave notes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear. Open my mouth and let it bear gladly the warm truth everywhere, Open my heart and let me prepare love with thy children thus to share. Silently now I wait for thee, ready my God thy will to see, open my eyes illumine me Spirit divine.

Bible Study Content:

1. Genuine happiness is a by-product of knowing Biblical principles and doing them: (John 13:17, Joshua 1:8)
2. Solomon used two verses to explain the secret of success for everyone: (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14)
3. Starting life with great advantage does not ensure we finish well: (I Kings 3:3-14, 11:1-11, II Samuel 12:10)
4. Heart trouble is the root cause of every personal failure we experience: (Psalms 119:2, II Chronicles 25:1-2)
5. Failure to diligently guard the heart always results in personal pain -regret: (Proverbs 4:23, Matthew 15:17-19)
6. Genuine satisfaction can never be achieved by only listening to your heart: (Jeremiah 10:23, Proverbs 28:26)
7. The great physician is the only one who can really repair our totally defective hearts: (Psalms 51:10-17)
8. How much stuff we ultimately possess in life has nothing to do with happiness: (Ecclesiastes 2:9, Luke 12:15)
9. Great wisdom and riches alone will not bring peace to our souls if God is left out: (Ecclesiastes 1:1-18, 5:10)
10. This world is full of evil and everyone will experience unfair events in life: (Ecclesiastes 6:1, 7:15, 8:6, 9:11)
11. Hard work to acquire the basic necessities of life brings fulfillment: (Ecclesiastes 2:24, 3:22, Proverbs 23:4)
12. Very little wealth with contentment is better than riches without harmony: (Ecclesiastes 4:6, Proverbs 21:9)
13. Teamwork makes any person/organization/marriage/family/church work much better: (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)
14. A good reputation is better than riches and wisdom is better than weapons: (Ecclesiastes 7:1, 9:16,18)

Bible Study Summary:

1. If knowing God is not on your bucket list then your ladder is leaning against the wrong wall: (Mark 8:36)
2. The Bible operates on a need to know basis and some questions cannot be answered: (Deuteronomy 29:29)
3. Jesus never promised us smooth sailing, but He did promise us a safe landing: (Jude 1:24, II Timothy 1:12)

Someone wrote: As you wandered along on life's pathway, have you lived without love a life of fear? Have you searched for life's hidden meaning or is your life filled with long wasted years? Wasted years, wasted years, oh how foolish as you walk on in darkness

and fear. Turn around, turn around, God is calling; He's calling you from a life of wasted years.

**The Above lesson was written by Tommy Dowling
a Sunday School Teacher for over 40 years.**

If God has spoken to your heart after reading the sermon "**Solomon Lived In Great Pleasure, But Died With Great Regrets,**" right now talk to God about what He has spoken to you.

Do you have the assurance that one day you will go to heaven? If you have no assurance that you know Jesus Christ, then I trust you will decide to accept Him as your personal Savior. The Bible tells us in

Acts 16:31, "...**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved...**"

Romans 10:13, "**For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.**"

This prayer is here for those who need to ask Jesus to be their personal Savior: "**I do want to go to Heaven. I know I am a sinner, and I do believe Jesus Christ died for me. I realize I cannot buy this great salvation, nor can I earn it. Knowing Jesus died on the cross and arose from the grave to pay my sin debt and to purchase my salvation, I do now trust Him as my Savior, and from this moment on I am completely depending on Him for my salvation.**"

If you made the decision to accept Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, please let me know. Please send an e-mail to pastormiklas@aol.com and I will send you some literature that will help you in your Christian life.

The "**Weekly SERMON**" was sent as a ministry of Bible Baptist Ministry, `4 United Zion Circle, Lititz, 17543. Privacy policy: your e-mail address will not be sold, or shared with any third party.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING PERMISSION TO COPY: The "**Weekly SERMON**" is reproduced in several formats, therefore, in its original form, without any changes, the "**Weekly SERMON**" may be copied and re-transmitted by electronic mail, and copies may be printed for individual or ministry purposes, provided that such copying, re-transmission, printing, or other use is not for profit or other commercial purpose. Any copying, re-transmission, distribution, printing, or other use of the "**Weekly SERMON**" must set forth in full the heading that is given before each "**Weekly SERMON.**" Any other request for use, please contact Bible Baptist Ministries at pastormiklas@aol.com or by phone at 717-625-2992.