



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

November 27, 2022

P.O. Box 416
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Elders:

Kendall Bear
Dana Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Larry Brackett
Aaron Evans
Larry Hill
Steve McCreary

Minister:

Dale Barger

Service Times:

Sunday

Bible Study 10 am
Worship Service 10:45 am
Worship Service 6 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7 pm

Email:

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Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

Thankful For What We Don't Have

"Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget none of His benefits;" (Psalms 103:2).

This time of year, we think about 'counting our many blessings'. It's easy to look at all of our stuff all our friends and family, our homes, our jobs and understand the need to be grateful.

Yet do we realize that our greatest blessing might just be what we don't have?

If we are free from disease. If we are not at war. When we don't suffer physical persecution for our faith. When we don't have fear of our government. When we don't have toxins in our water or poisons in our food. When we don't have crimes overrunning our streets. When we don't have want for food or supplies.

We have it so good because we don't have so much that others do. And for that we should be thankful.

Thankful and generous. One can't truly be grateful for what he has if he is not willing to share that with those that do not.

If we count what we have and all the things we are not burdened with, it would be asinine not to realize that we are a blessed people. These blessings have come from our God on High. In Him, we should give thanks!

Barry Haynes
Hope church of Christ
Hope, AR

Are We Truly Thankful?

Many, many years ago a story is told of a good king in Spain known as Alfonso XIX who learned that the boys who served in his court were forgetting to pray before their meals. So, he decided to teach them a lesson. He gave a banquet and invited them to attend. Midway through the dinner a ragged beggar came in, sat down, and began eating ravenously. When he was finished, he went out without saying a word.

“That ungrateful wretch ought to be whipped,” shouted the boys. *“He ate the king’s food and never showed gratitude.”* Quietly the king rose to his feet, and silence fell over the group. *“Daily you have taken the rich blessings of life from the hand of your Heavenly Father,”* said the king. *“You’ve enjoyed His sunshine, breathed His air, eaten His food He has provided, and you have not bothered to say ‘thank you’ for any of them. You are more ungrateful than that beggar.”*

Often, we like those boys, take for granted those blessings that God has provided.

In **Luke 17:11-19** Jesus healed ten men of leprosy. Out of the ten men who were healed only one man returned to thank Jesus. Jesus asked the man who return, “Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner” (**Lk. 17:17, 18**).

So many times, we often neglect to be thankful. Yet, thanksgiving is to be a natural attitude of our worship (**1 Cor. 14:16-17**) and is to characterize all of Christian life (**Col. 2:7; 4:2**). We are to give thanks daily and regularly.

As we read in the New Testament the early Christians expressed thanks: for Christ’s ministry (**Luke 17:16**); for Christ’s deliverance from sin (**Rom. 6:17-18; 7:25**); for God’s indescribable gift of grace in Christ (**2 Cor. 2:14-15; 1 Cor. 15:57; Rom. 1:21**) and for the faith of fellow Christians (**Rom. 1:8**).

All this comes from the God who loves us and has given so much to us; shouldn’t we be thankful always?

Alex Haley, the author of “*Roots*,” had an unusual picture hanging on his office wall. It was a picture of a turtle on top of a fence post. When asked, “*Why is that there?*” Alex Haley answered, “*Every time I write something significant, every time I read my words and think that they are wonderful, and begin to feel proud of myself, I look at the turtle on top of the fence post and remember that he didn’t get there on his own. He had help.*”

That is the basis of thankfulness – to remember that we got “*here*” with the help of God, and that He is the provider of every blessing we have.

This Thanksgiving season may we be reminded of all the Lord has done for us and may we not only thank Him now but every day that we have the breath of life.

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