

Giving Thanks For All Things

I read recently about a family that traditionally began the evening meal with a prayer of thanks. When they were old enough, they began letting the children say the meal prayer. At first, they would ask for a pony, a new bike, etc., but they soon learned the more important things which should be included in the prayer.

One Thanksgiving, they had the whole family over. The nine-year-old son wanted to say the prayer. It went like this:

"Heavenly Father, we thank Thee for the turkey, the rolls, the mashed potatoes, the red jiggly stuff, and the bread stuff even though I don't like it. We ask that You not let us choke on this food."

You have to admire the honesty of that little boy, and I also admire those parents who have instilled in their children an attitude of being thankful for everything. And yet, I wonder how often we adults struggle with the same thing. Thursday, those of us who celebrate Thanksgiving in this country will take time to be thankful for many things — our family, our food, our homes, the freedoms we enjoy in this country and many other things.

But I wonder how many of us will include in our prayer of thanksgiving a thankfulness for the things we "don't like" — the sicknesses of the past year, the financial struggles, the people we have trouble getting along with.

Paul said we are to be "giving thanks always for ALL things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." (Ephesians 5:20). That includes the "various trials" we face (James 1:2) that strengthen us and help us to grow to maturity.

This Thanksgiving, may you truly be thankful for ALL things (even the yucky red jiggly stuff!).

- Alan Smith,

via Alan Smith's Thought For The Day, Helen St. Church of Christ, Fayetteville, NC.

Thanks to God for my Redeemer, thanks for all Thou dost provide,
Thanks for times but now a memory, thanks for Jesus by my side.

Thanks for pleasant, balmy springtime, thanks for dark and dreary fall,
Thanks for tears by now forgotten, thanks for peace within my soul.

Thanks for prayers Thou hast answered, thanks for what Thou dost deny,
Thanks for storms that I have weathered, thanks for all Thou dost supply.

Thanks for pains, and thanks for pleasure, thanks for comfort in despair,
Thanks for grace that none can measure, thanks for love beyond compare.

Thanks for roses by the wayside, thanks for thorns their stems contain,
Thanks for home and thanks for fireside, thanks for hope, that sweet refrain.

Thanks for joy and thanks for sorrow, thanks for heavenly peace with Thee,
Thanks for hope in the tomorrow, thanks through all eternity.

- Author Unknown -
via Bulletin Gold

"Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise!
Give thanks to Him; bless His name! (Psalm 100:4)

News & Notes

SYMPATHY: To Brent & Janie Gallagher at the passing of Brent's mother, Betty. God bless and comfort them at this time.

LADIES MEETING TONIGHT: Following the evening worship period the ladies will meet to plan for the next ladies work day to assemble baskets for our shut-ins.

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Canceled for this Tuesday, Nov. 24th.

MOVING: Jack & Margaret Board will be moving to Iowa Nov. 24th. Their new address will be: John Board, 2322 Ranch Road, Decorah, IA 52101. Remember them in thought and prayer as they leave us.

NEW PICTURE DIRECTORY: Pictures will be taken Dec. 10th, 11th, & 12th. If you have not made an appointment, do so as quickly as possible. Your participation will help to make the directory complete.

PANTRY ITEM: Canned soup.

UPCOMING MEDICAL PROCEDURES: Crystal Baker will have additional testing tomorrow. Michelle Hanlon will have knee replacement on Nov. 30th. Bob Cyphers will have a lung procedure on Dec. 10th. Remember these in your prayers.

THOSE WITH HEALTH CONCERNS: Weirton Medical: Leo Cameron; Fred Larrimore, Sr. (Skilled Care) (Karen Strum's father). HealthSouth Rehab Hospital, Sewickley, PA 15143: Harry Nice. At Home: Ella Beagle, Navella Howard, Bob Cyphers, Linda Parkes, Janet Malcomson, Jack Board, Betty Carlin. Check the bulletin board for others who are shut in.

Are You Deceived?

- A man is DECEIVED if he is a hearer and not a doer of the Word. (James 1:22).
- A man is DECEIVED if he says that he has no sin. (1 John 1:8).
- A man is DECEIVED when he thinks himself to be something when he is nothing. (Galatians 6:3).
- A man is DECEIVED when he thinks himself to be wise with worldly wisdom. (1 Corinthians 3:18).
- A man is DECEIVED when he seems to be religious and does not bridle his tongue. (James 1:26).
- A man is DECEIVED when he thinks that he will not reap what he sows. (Galatians 6:7).
- A man is DECEIVED when he thinks that evil company will not corrupt good morals. (1 Corinthians 15:33).
- A man is DECEIVED when he thinks that the unrighteous will inherit the kingdom of God (Heaven). (1 Corinthians 6:9).

Now Satan will try to DECEIVE you to not pay attention to the above. Will you let him?

- Ed Starchi, Church of Christ, Jackson, MO — via Bulletin Digest