

Messenger

Volume 16
Issue 11
November



Coming Events

November

No Gathering

December 3 Gathering

Friday @ 6

Wightman UMC

Prosperity

IT IS GOOD TO GIVE THANKS

Thanksgiving was an important part of Israelite culture. Every morning and evening, the Levites sacrificed a thank offering to the Lord. This was to keep the people's focus on their true provider—GOD.

Psalms 92:1-2 tells us, "It is good to give thanks to the Lord and to sing praises to Your name, O Most High; to declare Your lovingkindness in the morning and your faithfulness at night."

We would do well to imitate the Levites in this way, giving thanks in the morning and evening. When we think of what we can be grateful for each day, two things come to mind:

For the grace extended to us by our Lord Jesus Christ and for our friends in the Emmaus Community and our church family. We can thank God for homes and friends who are there for us.

Thank God especially for three meals a day and a few snacks in between. But thanking God goes beyond appreciating what He gives us and does for us. When we thank Him, we honor Him. A humble attitude of gratefulness refocuses our attention on the things that really matter in this life. When we have this mind set, our gaze moves away from anxiety to genuine contentment. The Apostle Paul knew it well.

He writes, "be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to god. And the peace of god, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus" (Phil 4:6-7). Thanking the Lord each day refreshes our relationship with Him and reinforces our faith.

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So how do we express our thankfulness to God? By simply saying THANK YOU!!! Prayers of appreciation are the blessings to the Father. “He who offers the sacrifice of Thanksgiving honors me, and to him who orders His way aright, I shall show the salvation of God” (Psalms 50:23). We can demonstrate gratitude by worshipping, singing, praising Him in public, giving generously, and living a Godly life.

Even if you never get anything in return, you can honor God through actions in your everyday life that demonstrate thankfulness for His incredible generosity to you. In doing so, you will experience close intimacy with Him. It’s my prayer that you emulate the Levites in this way and receive the blessings that come from a grateful heart.

Have a Blessed Thanksgiving!

Charles

I thought I’d write a piece for the November issue instead of asking others to share their thoughts. While looking for something to share with you on Thanksgiving I came across a sentence on the Upper Room’s web site that caught my eye, “Many soup kitchens are overwhelmed with volunteers for Thanksgiving and lack them the rest of the year. Find out where you could share food, time, and caring. Make a date to show up when you are most needed.”

This has special meaning to me because I volunteer at a soup kitchen every week in my home town. It has become a day I look forward to and feel as though my week is not complete if I do not participate. At another ministry meeting tonight one of the board members said he takes the youth from his church to a shelter to provide meals for the homeless. They not only provide the meal, they interact with the patrons, playing games and getting to know them.

“Time is your most precious gift because you only have a set amount of it. You can make more money, but you can’t make more time. When you give someone your time, you are giving them a portion of your life that you’ll never get back. Your time is your life. That’s why the greatest gift you can give someone is your time. Rick Warren, *The Purpose Driven Life: What on Earth Am I Here For?*

There are soup kitchens and homeless shelters in almost every town. What are you doing with your time?

Happy Thanksgiving

Billy

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