

A GREAT THANKER

Michael Pickford

Many people become great thinkers, others aspire to be great thinkers. There's certainly nothing wrong in this. In fact, it should be highly recommended. But to be honest, when I'm gone, I'd prefer to be remembered as one who was a great thinker, than a great thinker...

"In everything give thanks."

-1 Thessalonians 5:18

I love grateful people, don't you? It's always nice to hear someone say "Thank you" for a kindness given. What's more, it's nice to have them thank you just for being the person you are. This is always encouraging. Those who say thank you often are generally great encouragers. God wants us to be grateful people. The theme of thankfulness is saturated into the pages of scripture. Too often we get into the spoiled child mode. We grumble and complain while we are surrounded by blessings that most in the world will never know. Let us learn to be great thinkers. Let us express our gratefulness often to others, and most importantly, to God, for He has blessed us so richly with all spiritual blessings in Christ (Ephesians 1:3). He has blessed us with salvation! Be thankful! 🔍

Welcome to our services and thank you for visiting. If you have any questions about our beliefs or practices, please don't hesitate to ask.

God has not only commanded us to worship Him, but has also told us how, in His word. **The elements of our services, as prescribed by God's word, are as follows:**

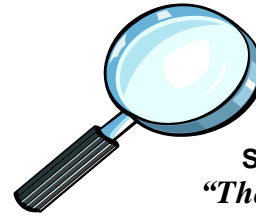
- **SINGING:** Ephesians 5:18,19; Colossians 3:16
- **PREACHING/TEACHING:** Acts 2:42; Eph. 4:11,12
- **PRAYING:** Acts 2:42; Acts 12:5
- **LORD'S SUPPER:** 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Acts 20:7
- **GIVING:** 1 Corinthians 16:1,2; 2 Corinthians 9:6,7



COME WORSHIP WITH US!

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY...9:00
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP.....10:00
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP.....6:00
WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICES....7:00

- www.defendthegospel.com
- Weekly Article: Rutherford Reader
- 3rd Sunday Singing Practice: 5 pm
- 4th Sunday Singing Night: 6 pm
- 5th Sunday Men's Training Class, 4:30 pm. Prayer Service, 6 pm
- Men's Business Meeting. 1st Sunday evenings following services.



SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER

Southside church of Christ, 1167 South Lowry
Smyrna, TN 37167, Phone (615) 459-7854
"They...searched the scriptures daily..." -Acts 17:11

Volume 11, Number 45

November 22, 2015

HOW GIVING THANKS HELPS

Michael Pickford

Thanksgiving is a recurring theme throughout the Bible. God wants us to express our gratitude to Him often. Sure, it's a command, but there are many benefits we receive when we give thanks...

Develop Your Attitude. Giving thanks for our rich blessings helps us develop an "attitude of gratitude." This enables us to eradicate those feelings of bitterness, anger, resentment, and complaining that grips the hearts of so many of us. We are told to put away "all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking" (Ephesians 4:31-32). Becoming thankful people will give us a grateful disposition towards God and men. No wonder God stresses that giving of thanks should be made for all men (1 Timothy 2:1).

Displace Your Anxiety. As a nation of the most blessed people on earth, it's ironic that we are also the most anxious. So many are consumed with anxiety and frozen with fear. Certainly there are anxious times, but going to God with thanksgiving helps ease our minds during these. Too many people are more apt to take a pill rather than turn to prayer. Some put more faith in stress management classes and "Psychological gurus" than they do in the concept of "Take it to the Lord in prayer." God tells us what to do in anxious times - Be thankful! "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 understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7). Note the phrase, "With Thanksgiving."

Determine Your Actions. Ungrateful people are not as likely to be as friendly and sharing as those with grateful dispositions. Show me someone who is stingy with their possessions and I'll show you someone who is ungrateful for his blessings. A grateful heart is a generous heart. Paul wrote several paragraphs to the Corinthians encouraging them to give aid to those in dire need. He ends the subject with this statement, "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!" (2 Corinthians 9:15). It feels good to give and to share. Truly, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). When I was a child I got more joy out of opening my gifts from others, now I get more joy out of watching others open their gifts from me. 🔍

Evangelist & Editor: Michael Pickford, 615-471-1612, mpickford3@comcast.net

www.defendthegospel.com

WHEN TEXTING IS A SIN

Michael Thomas

Kentucky passed a law on July 15, 2010 that bans texting and driving, except for emergency situations. Any violators will be liable for a \$25 fine for their first offense and \$50 for subsequent offenses. This is an excellent law that should, ideally, reduce the instances of people swerving like drunkards while texting and driving. And since God commands people to obey the laws of the land (Rom. 13:1), Christians should now consider it a sin to text and drive. But this is not the only way people can sin by texting. There are many people who get themselves into trouble with these electronic messages by what and who they text, even if they're not driving.

Suggestive language. Some people use texting to flirt with people they have no business being romantically involved with, namely someone else's mate or someone other than their own mate. This is dangerously evil and immoral. God tells us to avoid all types of sexual perversion by controlling our desires. "*Abstain from sexual immorality...that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord is the avenger of all such*" (1 Thes. 4:3, 7).

Gossip. Records of texting remain long after they are sent. They do not disappear just because we delete them from your phone. That being so, would others be offended to learn what you are saying about them in your texts? Would they feel betrayed or wronged by you? God says the "*hypocrite with his mouth destroys his neighbor*" (Pro. 11:9). You may not be saying anything with your tongue while texting, but you can still slander people with your thumbs by spreading defamatory remarks. God's faithful do not do this.

Cursing or taking the Lord's name in vain. There are phrases that can be texted that abbreviate curse words to one letter or use God's name in vain. An example is OMG, which for the majority of people means, "Oh, my God!" People also add the first letter of curse words to that and other phrases. These abbreviated phrases have been around since the mid-90s when online chat rooms were gaining popularity. Nevertheless, Christians are supposed to express language that is clean and wholesome. "*Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers*" (Eph. 4:29). I wish I could convince people to not use the Lord's name in vain, but it seems like that effort is made in vain nowadays. I guess the Lord Himself will have to correct them on Judgment Day for such irreverence (Matt. 12:36).

Everything we text is seen by someone other than the person we're texting. Not only by those who access those phones, but more importantly by God. So choose your words wisely. "*In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, but he who restrains his lips is wise*" (Pro. 10:19). -

SERMON NOTES

Search the scriptures daily to see if these things are so.

Title: _____

STUDY
DAILY!
Acts
17:11

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Sam Miller
Reading: Psalm 100:1-5
- Song Leader.....Lynn Buttrey
- Opening Prayer.....Michael Pickford
- Lord's Table:
Lead.....Tony Jenkins
Serve.....Michael Pickford
Serve.....Frank Anderson
- Closing Prayer.....Kenny Todd

SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Lord's Table.....Lynn Buttrey

WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Kenny Johnson
- Invitation.....Michael Pickford

GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

There is only one true saving plan of Salvation outlined in Scripture. No substitutes will do. Have you really been saved? Get out your Bible and study the plan below.

- Hear The Gospel: Romans 10:17
- Believe: Mark 16:16; John 8:24
- Repent of Sin: Acts 2:38; 17:30
- Confess Faith: Romans 10:9, 10
- Be Baptized: Mark 16:16;
Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21
- Remain Faithful: Rev. 2:10

Obey Today!

Thank You For Serving!

*Home Bible Studies
Available Upon Request!*

"In Everything Give Thanks"

1 Thessalonians 5:18