

## 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 "Thanker," 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 thankers. 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! 🔍

The elements of our worship, as prescribed by God's word, are as follows:

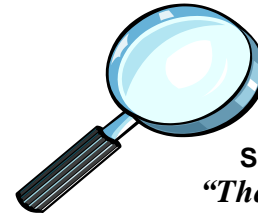
- **SINGING:** Ephesians 5:18,19; Colossians 3:16
- **PREACHING/TEACHING:** Acts 2:42; Eph. 4:11,12
- **PRAYING:** Acts 2:42; Acts 12:5
- **LORD'S SUPPER:** 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Acts 20:7
- **GIVING:** 1 Corinthians 16:1,2; 2 Corinthians 9:6,7

**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](http://www.defendthegospel.com)
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Singing Night: 6 pm
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Night: Guest Speaker
- Men's Business Meeting. 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday evenings following services.



## SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER

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*"They...searched the scriptures daily..."* –Acts 17:11

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## 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. 🔍

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# THANKSGIVING

Michael Pickford

The fourth Thursday in November is a day set aside to count our blessings as individuals, families, and Americans. It's been a tradition since the Pilgrims of Plymouth sat down to dinner with their Native American neighbors in 1623, and an official annual holiday since George Washington proclaimed it one in 1789.

Giving thanks is a biblical precept and should be done more often than one day a year. "Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name" (Psalm 100:4). Paul wrote, "Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving" (Colossians 4:2). Notice the word "Continue." This reminds us of 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18 which says "Pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks..." George Herbert said, "Thou hast given so much to me, give one thing more, - a grateful heart." We should let our thankfulness show through our...

**Worship.** We're familiar with the story of the ten lepers healed by Jesus (Luke 17:11-19). After being healed, nine of them were anxious to get back to their lives. But one of them "Glorified God, and fell down at His feet, giving Him thanks" (Verses 15-16). Worship should be a desired thing in our hearts in response to the many wonderful ways God has blessed us, not only materially, but most importantly, spiritually. In view of God's blessings in Christ (Ephesians 1:3), it should be easy for us to keep the commandment to assemble (Hebrews 10:25).

**Works.** What happened to Lydia? She found eternal salvation and she was grateful. She showed her gratitude by her works of opening up her home to Paul and Silas (Acts 16:14-15). We have been created in Christ Jesus for good works (Ephesians 2:10) and we should be zealous for them (Titus 2:14). This is a godly reaction to our having the glorious opportunity to be cleansed from our sins and saved in Christ. Rather than finding excuses to avoid spiritual works, we should gladly and gratefully do them.

**Wages.** The widow gave all she had (Luke 21:1-4). Why would anyone give so sacrificially? I believe it was out of gratitude! When we are truly grateful, we will give to the Lord's work. We are commanded to give (1 Corinthians 16:1-3). In view of giving Paul wrote "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift" (2 Corinthians 9:15).

# THANK GOD!

Michael Pickford

If you've given someone's child a piece of candy or other gift, the parent will inevitably say to the child, "What do you say?" This, of course, is the parent's way of encouraging the child to say "Thank you." Parents want to teach their children to be grateful, and to have polite manners.

If it's important for a child to learn to say "Thank you" for a piece of candy, how much more for us to learn to say "Thank you" to God? God's Blessings are rich, especially in this country. Scripture abounds with exhortations for us to thank God for our food, wisdom, answered prayer, etc.

Of course the greatest gift for which we must be thankful is the gift of God's Son Who was offered up for our salvation. Paul wrote, "But thanks be

to God for His indescribable gift" (2 Corinthians 9:15). This is a gift which was in no way deserved. Paul tells us that God demonstrates His love towards us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:6-9). In this passage Paul refers to mankind as "without strength," Ungodly," "Sinners," "Enemies." Not exactly a pretty description of us huh? Not only did we do nothing to deserve the gift of God's Son, we did everything to be undeserving of it! That's why it's called grace, a free gift, unmerited favor! (Ephesians 2:8-10).

Thanking God expresses both our gratitude to and our dependence on God. Get down on your knees daily and Thank God! "It is good to give thanks to The Lord" (Psalm 92:1)

## DUTY LIST...

### SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Tony Jenkins  
Reading: Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26
- Song Leader.....Lynn Buttrey
- Opening Prayer.....Kenny Johnson
- Lord's Table:  
Lead.....Kenny Todd  
Serve.....Michael Pickford  
Serve.....John Nelson
- Closing Prayer.....Kenny Todd

### SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Tony Jenkins
- Lord's Table.....Tony Jenkins

### WEDNESDAY EVENING

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

**Thank You For Serving!**

## 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!**

*Home Bible Studies  
Available Upon Request!*

*"Oh, Give thanks to the Lord,  
For He is good!  
For His mercy endures forever."*

-Psalm 136:1