

THE FLORAL HEIGHTS INFORMER

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God Desires us to be Thankful

Being thankful is not only a display of humility but it also illustrates a spirit of contentment with the things we are blessed with. Being thankful for spiritual and physical blessings has always been God's required characteristic. The apostle Paul wrote, "*Pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus to you-ward*" (I Thess. 5:17-18). This time of year is a time when people are called upon to give thanks for all their health and wealth but let the Christian also remember to give God thanks for sending His Son and granting man the blessings of justification.

God Despises the Ungrateful

Moses delivered a song at Deuteronomy 32 and accused Israel of "*lightly esteeming the Rock of his salvation*" due to their continued ungrateful disposition (Deut. 32:15). After discussing all that God had done for Israel by bringing them out of Egypt by a mighty hand Moses asks, "*Do ye thus repay Jehovah, O foolish people and unwise? Is not he thy father that hath bought thee? He hath made thee, and established thee*" (Deut. 32:6).

Israel had a history of ungratefulness. When the Lord delivered them from Egyptian bondage they complained (Numb. 11:18-20). The Lord gave them manna from heaven to eat yet they cried, "*our soul is dried away; there is nothing at all save this manna to look at*" (Numb. 11:6). Later Israel defiantly said, "*Our souls loath this light bread*" (Numb. 21:5-

Local News:

Welcome to all our visitors:

We pray that you will be edified by our service and that you will ask questions if things are not as you are accustomed to seeing. Please do come back at your every opportunity!

Announcements:

Last Sunday morning **Tommy and Tammy Jeter** responded to the invitation and were baptized for the forgiveness of their sins. We rejoice with them and welcome them both to this local church.

Last Sunday morning **Evelyn Dunn** also responded to the invitation. Evelyn had been worshipping in a local institutional church and has recognized the error thereof. She has asked the Lord to forgive her and to become a member of this local church. We praise God for her decision and look forward to getting to know her better.

Continue to pray for our shut-ins:

Stella Davidson
696-1030 (Home)

Calvin York
692-0489 (Home).

6). God's displeasure in their ungrateful spirit is depicted as He sent snakes to bite them. The anger of Jehovah was kindled when Israel complained about their blessings (Numb. 11:10). Eventually, the Lord gave up on the ungrateful sinners and caused them to wander in the wilderness for forty years (Numb. 14:33-38). Israel continued to be ungrateful throughout their history. They served other gods even though God had done so much for them (Judges 2:11-13) and illustrated a spirit of disdain for God's laws (Hosea 2:8-9; 9:10, 13; 11:3-4; Amos 2:9; Malachi [all]). Their spirit of ungratefulness seemed to climax when they shouted, "*crucify him crucify him*" when demanding the life of Jesus Christ (Matt. 27:24ff; Lk. 23:13ff).

Contentment is the key to a Grateful Disposition

The author of Hebrews said, "*Be ye free from the love of money; content with such things as ye have: for himself hath said, I will in no wise fail thee, neither will I in any wise forsake thee*" (Heb. 13:5). When we recognize the grand picture of all eternity the things of this world become less important to us. Christians are those who have set their mind on heaven and along that journey they will be thankful for the rations of comfort God sees fit to let us enjoy. The apostle Paul wrote, "*I have learned in whatsoever state I am, therein to be content*" (Phil. 4:11). Jesus gives us manna from heaven today in the form of divine revelation. Let us all be thankful for this bread that will eternally sustain us in peace with the heavenly father (see Jn. 6:32ff).

John C. Robertson

"Wherefore I shall be ready always to put you in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and are established in the truth which is with you"

II Peter 1:12

Worship

Introduction:

Thanksgiving holiday season is a time when people in this country give thanks for the blessings of life. What greater thanks can we give God than to worship Him in the spirit of truth? The idea of worship is to give reverence, honor, and to express our love toward the creator of all that exists. The Lord's church assembles every first day of the week that worship may be exercised (Acts 11:26; 20:8; I Cor. 16:1ff).

I. Why do we Worship (i.e., perform acts of reverence, honor, and love toward God)?

- A. Because God commands it (Matt. 4:10).
- B. Because of His promises (Gen. 12:1ff; Gal. 3:10-16; Acts 13:37-39).

II. How do we Worship?

- A. Singing (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16 etc.) - occurs in the assembly - I Cor. 14:26
- B. Partaking of the Lord's Supper (Matt. 26:26ff; Acts 20:7; I Cor. 11:23-24).
- C. Praying (Acts 2:42; I Tim. 2:8)
- D. Giving of our means on the first day of the week (I Cor. 16:2; II Cor. 9:6-7).
- E. Preaching the gospel (Acts 11:26; 20:7).

III. What does God think about our Worship?

- A. God demands that worship take place in a truthful or authorized manner (Col. 3:27).
- B. Worship that is done correctly goes up unto the Lord as a sweet savor (Gen. 8:20-22) and it pleases Him (Heb. 13:15-16).
- C. Those who reject God's authorized word yet attempt to worship him are an abomination (Isa. 1:10-17; Amos 4:4-5; 5:18-24; Hos. 8:13; Malachi 1:6-8; Matt. 15:8-9; Acts 17:22-28; Gal. 4:8-11; Col. 2:20-23).
- D. God does not need grand structures but rather desires men's heart (see Acts 7:48; 17:24).

Conclusion:

Jesus said, "*True worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth: for such doth the Father seek to be his worshippers*" (Jn. 4:23). Authorized worship is an expression of one's love, appreciation, and reverence toward the creator. Said worship will be acceptable to the Lord when done so with the right heart and an authorized manner. The nature of God ought to be taken into consideration when worshipping. Isaiah said, "*Thus saith Jehovah, Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: what manner of house will ye build unto me? For all these things hath my hand made, and so all these things came to be, saith Jehovah*" (Isa. 66:11-12). God does not demand a grand cathedral but rather a heart that is willing to submit to Him in love.