



Pastor David's Weekly Devotional

Typically, little children are thankful for just about everything – even those “little things” that no longer register in most adults. As we get older it seems we are less apt to be thankful for everything. With age we tend to become less easily contented or impressed and more easily disappointed or irritated. In this state of mind, it is difficult to be thankful for anything – let alone everything. But God commands in His Word that we are to “*always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ*” (Eph.5:20). As Christians, we (like every unbeliever) not only have a lot to be thankful for, but we (unlike every unbeliever) know exactly Whom we should thank! For we are convinced that God is due all praise, honor and thanksgiving for who He is and for what He does.

Many who will celebrate Thanksgiving do not stop to give thanks at all, and if they do they will not recognize God as the One who has given them every good thing. Sinfully, they completely secularize Thanksgiving by forgetting or ignoring God as the One who ultimately deserves our eternal gratitude. They will not be too awfully dissimilar to the lepers that Jesus met on His way to Jerusalem: “*Now on His way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As He was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met Him. They stood at a distance and called out in a loud voice, ‘Jesus, Master, have pity on us!’ When He saw them, He said, ‘Go, show yourselves to the priests.’ And as they went, they were cleansed.*” (Luke 17:11-14)

Similar to AIDS/HIV (killing over 35 million people) or the measles (still taking over 122,000 lives globally each year), leprosy was an incredibly debilitating and potentially fatal disease. The disease affected the skin, mucous membranes, and eyes as well as some of the nerves located outside the central nervous system. This left the leper's skin and extremities susceptible to infection and injury oftentimes resulting in severe damage or disfigurement. Because of their hideous appearance, rancid odor and contagious presence, those who became leprous were quarantined and therefore outcast from society. Needless to say, to be healed of leprosy was a very big deal. Therefore, what happened next was truly unfathomable: “*One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked Him – and he was a Samaritan*” (Luke 17:15-16).

Amazingly, only one leper returned to give Jesus thanks. ***But the point is not that this one leper was the only one thankful, the point is this one leper was the only one who praised God for his healing!*** Clearly, Jesus expected the other nine to return in gratefulness and thanksgiving. But they did not. Their failure to appreciate and adore Jesus was indicative of their sinful hearts. However, the one who came back to give thanks to God revealed his heart for Christ and in return he received the gift of salvation for his faith. “*Jesus asked, ‘Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?’ Then He said to him, ‘Rise and go; your faith has made you well’*” (Luke 17:17-19).

While it may be disturbing to read about the nine lepers who refused to give thanks to Christ for their healing, it is more unsettling to hear about even one Christian who does not continually give thanks to Christ for his or her salvation. To be sure, Christians should be the most thankful people on the planet – not just on Thanksgiving, but every day. For as Christians, we have been spiritually and eternally restored through the forgiveness, goodness and kindness of God. Thank you, Lord!

Together in and for Christ,
Pastor David

Scripture Readings for the week (Monday – Sunday ~ Week #48):

Deuteronomy 20-22; Nehemiah 1-4; Psalm 137-139; Ecclesiastes 11-12; Malachi; Acts 19-20; 1 John 1-3

Recommended Reading:

“The Dawning of Indestructible Joy: Daily Readings for Advent” by John Piper

Calendar of
Events:

December 2

Children's
Christmas Musical

December 8

Men's Breakfast

December 15

Women's Breakfast

December 15

Single Women's
Hearts for Christ
Dinner

Looking Ahead...

SAM's Potluck

December 20

Christmas Eve Services

December 24

Youth Winter Retreat

January 4-6

For prayer requests,
email Amy Woodruff
at prayer@sbcnb.org
or call 541-404-0547

We're on the Web!

See us at:

sbcnb.org

Growth & Study.....

Men's Group Studies

Mondays ~

6:30pm "The Measure of a Man: Twenty
Attributes of a Godly Man"
w/Jeff Etzel (541-260-8725)

Wednesdays ~

6:30-7:30am "Joseph-A Man of Integrity and
Forgiveness"
w/Pastor David (541-756-3311)

Thursdays ~

6:30-7:30am "Behold Your God: Discovering
the Unfathomable Greatness and Glory of God"
w/Pastor Tim (541-756-3311)

Fridays ~

6:30-7:30am "Joseph-A Man of Integrity and
Forgiveness" *Begins December 7
w/Pastor David (541-756-3311)

Young Adults

Thursdays ~

7:00-9:00pm At Skyline
w/Pastor Tim (541-756-3311)

Women's Group Studies

Mondays ~

6:30pm "Romans"
w/Renee Middleton (541-297-2500)

Tuesdays ~

6:30-7:30am "Lessons from the Upper Room"
w/Loy Huntzinger (360-607-0022)

8:30am "Isaiah, the Lord Saves"
w/Beth Wallstrom (541-404-0112)

9:00am "Live Out His Love"
w/Lois-Elaine Rencehausen (541-751-3169)

1:00-2:15pm "Covenants"
w/Barb Young (541-404-6242)

7:00-8:15pm "Covenants"
w/Barb Young (541-404-6242)

Wednesdays ~

9:00-10:30am "Romans"
w/Amy Woodruff (541-404-0547)

10:00am "Seeking God's Great Riches, the Book
of Hebrews"
w/Karla Fries (541-267-0139)

6:30-8:00pm "Romans"
w/Amy Woodruff (541-404-0547)

Church News & Events.....

Prison Fellowship Ministries Angel Tree ~ December 2 & 9

The angel tree will be up in the church foyer on December 2 and 9 for choosing a child to purchase a Christmas gift for. Gifts will be due back on December 16.

Children's Christmas Musical ~ December 2, at 6:00pm

You won't want to miss our Children's Christmas Musical, "A Tree Lot Christmas"! Refreshments will be served.

Men's Breakfast ~ December 8, 8:30am

Men, join us at 8:30 a.m. for breakfast, devotion & fellowship.

Women's Breakfast ~ December 15, 8:30am

Ladies, please join us for a light breakfast, fellowship and devotions.

Single Women's "Hearts for Christ" Dinner ~ December 15, 4:00pm

Single women ages 18 and up, join us for a Christmas fellowship dinner at Kristi Snow's home - 918 Maryland Ave, Coos Bay. The cost is \$10 per person and includes soup, salad, bread and dessert. To RSVP or for more information, please contact Barb Miles at 541-888-0398.

SAM's Potluck Luncheon ~ December 20, Noon

For those ages 55 and up, please join us for lunch, worship and encouragement from the Word at our SAM's potluck. We don't want to miss you—if you need a ride, contact the church office at least 24 hours in advance and we will arrange a ride for you.

Welcome Baby Girl Eden!

Praise the Lord!

Pastor Chad and Lilly's beautiful baby girl was born Saturday afternoon. Both Lilly and Eden are healthy and doing well!



Eden Hope Frantz

Born: November 24, 2018
at 3:40pm

Weight: 8 lbs. 3 oz.

Height: 20 in.