

BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CENTER

1136 Baseline Road
Grand Island, New York
www.bfcgi.org
716-773-3748

THE LORD'S DAY

November 28, 2021 at 8:30 & 10:15 AM

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Organ Prelude	David Schmidt
Piano	Wendy Baldwin
Guitar	Steve Budnack

Announcements

Lighting of the first candle

Prayer

Scripture – Psalm 42 (opposite page)

Carol 270

Hymn

Pastoral Prayer

Hymns 170, 171 “Give Thanks” “Come into His Presence”

“He Is Exalted” Abby and Ellie Budnack

Message THE MESSAGE-THE INSTRUMENT-THE METHOD

Acts 13:13-52

Rev. Cal VanderMey

Benediction

Postlude

Isaiah 9:6

(printed on back)

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Tuesday 1 wk only-Precept Bible study at 8:30am- Margaret Was on Malachi

Precept Bible study will be starting “Job” on **January 11th** for 8 weeks via
ZOOM Tues. at 6:30pm. Email Wendy Baldwin at wlabaldwin@gmail.com

Wednesday - Ladies Bible study 10am with Becky Shearer

Wednesday Evening Prayer and Bible Study 6:30 – 7:40pm

MINISTRY OF MISSION

For the glory of God, Bible Fellowship Center is committed to spreading the
Good News of salvation, equipping the believers, that they might become
more Christ-like, worship God and enjoy Him forever.

The offering box is in the back of the sanctuary

Yearning for God in the Midst of Distresses

To the Chief Musician. A Contemplation of the sons of Korah.

42 As the deer pants for the water brooks,

So pants my soul for You, O God.

² My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.

When shall I come and appear before God?

³ My tears have been my food day and night,

While they continually say to me, “Where *is* your God?”

⁴ When I remember these *things*, I pour out my soul within me.

For I used to go with the multitude; I went with them to the house

of God, with the voice of joy and praise,

With a multitude that kept a pilgrim feast.

**⁵ Why are you cast down, O my soul? And *why* are you disquieted
within me? Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him *For* the help of His
countenance.**

⁶ O my God, my soul is cast down within me;

Therefore I will remember You from the land of the Jordan,

And from the heights of Hermon, from the Hill Mizar.

⁷ Deep calls unto deep at the noise of Your waterfalls;

All Your waves and billows have gone over me.

⁸ The LORD will command His lovingkindness in the daytime,

And in the night His song *shall be* with me—

A prayer to the God of my life.

⁹ I will say to God my Rock, “Why have You forgotten me?

Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?”

¹⁰ As with a breaking of my bones,

My enemies reproach me,

While they say to me all day long, “Where *is* your God?”

¹¹ Why are you cast down, O my soul?

And why are you disquieted within me?

Hope in God; For I shall yet praise Him,

The help of my countenance and my God.

Looking Ahead

Ladies of Grace – Saturday December 4th at 1pm.

Ladies Luncheon - Saturday December 11th at 12:30pm

Forever

by Chris Tomlin

Give thanks to the Lord
Our God and King
His love endures forever
For He is good, He is above all things
His love endures forever
Sing praise, sing praise
Sing praise, sing praise

CHORUS

Forever God is faithful
Forever God is strong
Forever God is with us
Forever

With a mighty hand
And outstretched arm
His love endures forever
For the life that's been reborn
His love endures forever
Sing praise, sing praise
Sing praise, sing praise. CHORUS

From the rising to the setting sun
His love endures forever
And by the grace of God
We will carry on
His love endures forever
Sing praise, sing praise
Sing praise, sing praise CHORUS

Acts 13

¹³ Now when Paul and his party set sail from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia; and John, departing from them, returned to Jerusalem.

¹⁴ But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and sat down.

¹⁵ And after the reading of the Law and the Prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent to them, saying, “Men *and* brethren, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, say on.”

¹⁶ Then Paul stood up, and motioning with *his* hand said, “Men of Israel, and you who fear God, listen:

¹⁷ The God of this people Israel chose our fathers, and exalted the people when they dwelt as strangers in the land of Egypt, and with an uplifted arm He brought them out of it.

¹⁸ Now for a time of about forty years He put up with their ways in the wilderness.

¹⁹ And when He had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, He distributed their land to them by allotment.

²⁰ “After that He gave *them* judges for about four hundred and fifty years, until Samuel the prophet.

²¹ And afterward they asked for a king; so God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years.

²² And when He had removed him, He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, ‘I have found David the *son* of Jesse, a man after My *own* heart, who will do all My will.’

²³ From this man’s seed, according to *the* promise, God raised up for Israel a Savior—Jesus—

²⁴ after John had first preached, before His coming, the baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel.

²⁵ And as John was finishing his course, he said, ‘Who do you think I am? I am not *He*. But behold, there comes One after me, the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to loose.’

²⁶ “Men *and* brethren, sons of the family of Abraham, and those among you who fear God, to you the word of this salvation has been sent.

²⁷ For those who dwell in Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they did not know Him, nor even the voices of the Prophets which are read every Sabbath, have fulfilled *them* in condemning *Him*.

²⁸ And though they found no cause for death *in Him*, they asked Pilate that He should be put to death.

²⁹ Now when they had fulfilled all that was written concerning Him, they took *Him* down from the tree and laid *Him* in a tomb.

³⁰ But God raised Him from the dead.

³¹ He was seen for many days by those who came up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are His witnesses to the people.

³² And we declare to you glad tidings—that promise which was made to the fathers.

³³ God has fulfilled this for us their children, in that He has raised up Jesus. As it is also written in the second Psalm: ‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.’

³⁴ And that He raised Him from the dead, no more to return to corruption, He has spoken thus: ‘I will give you the sure mercies of David.’

³⁵ Therefore He also says in another *Psalms*:

‘You will not allow Your Holy One to see corruption.’

³⁶ “For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell asleep, was buried with his fathers, and saw corruption;

³⁷ but He whom God raised up saw no corruption.

³⁸ Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through this Man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins;

³⁹ and by Him everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses.

⁴⁰ Beware therefore, lest what has been spoken in the prophets come upon you:

⁴¹ ‘Behold, you despisers, Marvel and perish!

For I work a work in your days,

A work which you will by no means believe,

Though one were to declare it to you.’ ”

⁴² So when the Jews went out of the synagogue, the Gentiles begged that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath.

⁴³ Now when the congregation had broken up, many of the Jews and devout proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God.

⁴⁴ On the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God.

⁴⁵ But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy; and contradicting and blaspheming, they opposed the things spoken by Paul.

⁴⁶ Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, “It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles.

⁴⁷ For so the Lord has commanded us:

‘I have set you as a light to the Gentiles,

That you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.’ ”

⁴⁸ Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.

⁴⁹ And the word of the Lord was being spread throughout all the region.

⁵⁰ But the Jews stirred up the devout and prominent women and the chief men of the city, raised up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their region.

⁵¹ But they shook off the dust from their feet against them, and came to Iconium.

⁵² And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CENTER

Colossians 3:17

Dear believers in Christ,

We know that fear is not from God, “For God has not given us a **spirit of fear**, but of power and of love and of a sound mind” (2 Timothy 1:7). If we focus all our time and energy on being fearful and all that relates to this sin-cursed earth, we are not going to have a very pleasant Thanksgiving Season. The Apostle Paul provides us a remedy to that malaise in Colossians 3:16, which teaches us that dwelling on “the Word of Christ” will make our worship and our lives truly glorifying to God. Dwelling on the Word of Christ (which is the great truths of Scripture) will also lead us to praise Him with singing of psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Colossians 3:17 adds the final and critical element that makes true worship complete—giving thanks.

Why is Thanksgiving Critical to True Worship? (Colossians 3:17)

Singing is to be done *with thankfulness* in your hearts to God. The hymns we sing should make us mindful of God’s grace to us in Christ, which will bring thanksgiving to our hearts when we remember God’s abundant grace. Second Samuel 6 tells the story of King David bringing the Ark of the Covenant into Jerusalem. This had been his great desire, and now it was being realized. In gratitude, he danced before the Lord with all his might. But his wife Michal looked out the window, saw David’s exuberant worship, and was embarrassed. She thought that his enthusiasm was undignified for a king and she rebuked him when he came into the house. But David defended his actions, which he described as *celebrating before the Lord* (2 Samuel 6:14-24). Significantly, the Lord sided with David, not with Michal, and caused her to be barren for the rest of her life. God wants our worship to be *with thankfulness from the heart*.

David was so thankful to God and so focused on God that his worship was received by God with great blessing on his life. Our worship should be *to God*. We are not to be worship-centered; we are to be God-centered! He is our audience in worship. We sing to Him. Even if the focus of a song is to teach and admonish one another, the best way to do it is to remember that we are not just singing to one another—God is present! When we sing, we sing to Him. Do you do that? Do you sing thankfully from your heart to God? If your heart is cold, confess it and turn your focus to the Lord through the words of the songs. To thank God, especially when difficult things happen, means that we must submit to His sovereign dealings with us. We are acknowledging that all our circumstances are under His control and in

harmony with His love. Like Job, we can worship Him even though we don’t understand what He is doing (Job 13:15). We need to accept our circumstances, and then trust the sovereignty of God to bring His will out of it. The opposite of thankfulness is grumbling. Israel in the wilderness grumbled repeatedly and because of it, God kept a whole generation out of the Promised Land. Grumbling impugns the character of God. It implies either God is not good, or that He is not powerful enough to handle our problems. If we confess our inadequacies in this area of thanksgiving, then we will truly be able to worship God with a grateful heart (Ps. 51:11-12).

II. For what should we be Thankful?

(I Thess. 5:18; II Cor. 4:8)

In I Thessalonians 5:18, Paul profoundly states that we must be thankful in everything. What does that mean? Primarily, we should be thankful for the blessings of life itself. Never take anything for granted, but receive it as a blessing! Second Corinthians 4:15 states that all that comes into our lives is to benefit us, and cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God. Then also we should be thankful for the burdens of life. In 2 Corinthians 12:10, Paul states that he delights in weakness, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, and in difficulties. In fact, when he accepted the fact that he is weak in his own power, he became strong in the power that the Lord alone supplies.

III. How does Thanksgiving strengthen our ability to worship God?

First, when we realize how blessed we are by God and by your relationships with fellow believers, our thanksgiving will cause us to grow in our faith. Second, when we realize how much God has done for us and how much He continues to do, we will be more than happy to give something back to Him. This comes through our time and also our financial giving. Someone has said that for thanksgiving to be complete there must be both “Thanks” and “Giving.” Both reflect the intent of the heart, and that is what Jesus is looking for. Lastly, when we realize that every circumstance comes to us from God, we will see that every obstacle becomes an opportunity to both trust the Lord more and to worship Him with our whole being (2 Corinthians 4:8).

Happy Thanksgiving, Pastor Cal