

Who Do You Thank?

By Ronald Bartanen

“In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” (The Apostle Paul, 1 Thessalonians 5:18)

“We ought to make an effort to act on our first thoughts, and let our unspoken gratitude find expression. Then there will be more sunshine in the world, and more power to work for what is good.” (Albert Schweitzer)

While our nation pauses this week to celebrate a day of thanksgiving, we realize there are many who would say they are thankful for a number of things, such as their homes, their jobs, their health, and especially their families, but they don't know who to thank. Thankfulness should be expressed by thanksgiving. Someone once observed, “Pity the poor atheist. He may feel thankful in his heart for his good fortunes, but he has no one to thank.” Sad to say, there are also many who would not consider themselves to be atheists, but would fail to recognize the real source of all blessings—God. They are much like the birds and squirrels who frequent our patio in search of seeds or crumbs which we have put at their disposal. They have come to expect to find something to fill their needs, but most likely have no understanding as to the source of such provisions.

When we lose sight of the One “from Whom all blessings flow,” we seek to live our lives independent of Him. When that happens, all spins out of control. It is as Paul expressed it in Romans 1:21: “Because, though they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became vain in their thoughts and their foolish hearts were darkened.” In the verses that followed he described the darkness of idolatry and sexual debauchery. The heart that realizes no dependence upon God is a heart that will take His blessings for granted and express no thankfulness toward the Creator and Sustainer of life.

When we put God out of our lives as a nation, the observance of Thanksgiving Day becomes no more than Turkey Day, a day for indulging ourselves. God would have us to partake of His bountiful supply, and to truly celebrate Thanksgiving with true thanksgiving to God from our hearts. May we heed Paul's admonition: “In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840
(570) 886-1838

Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732
November 18, 2018

WELCOME!

<u>Sunday</u>	Bible Class- 9:30 a.m. Worship- 10:30 a.m.
<u>Tuesday</u>	Ladies Bible Study- 10:00 a.m.
<u>Wednesday</u>	Bible Study-6:30 p.m.

All the churches of Christ greet you,
ROMANS 16:16

Today's Sermon: *Surround and Surrender!*

Sermons are recorded and are available for listening on the church website.

Bulletins are archived on the website.

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Scripture: Matthew 12:1-21

ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- **Ladies Class: This Tuesday, November 20th. The class will be at the building. Our lesson will be Day 1 of Lesson 7.**
- **Wednesday Evening Bible Class:** November 21st.
- **Next Regional Singing-** December 30th here at Valley Cities.
- **Sojourners** here- July 8-18.

Next Potluck: December 16th.



- **Jennifer's daughter, Maureen, from Elmira, had a baby boy on Thursday weighing a little over 8 lbs. Mother and baby (and Grandma!) are doing well!**
- **Potluck today... right after worship!**



HAPPY THANKSGIVING, EVERYONE!

PRAYERS...

- Pray for **Andrea Lentz** – lung cancer.
- Pray for **Lori Kashorek** – lung cancer.
- Pray for Sandy and Arthur's neighbor, **Erin Beiber who** has metastatic breast cancer.
- **Patty and Ruthie's cousin Cathy's husband Bruce** has kidney cancer.
- Patty's daughter, **April**, from Orlando, FL had her gall bladder removed a couple of weeks ago. After a setback, she is now doing well.
- **Arthur** has an erratic heartbeat. He will see the doctor in a few weeks for a checkup.
- Pray that **Jackie** can find a place to live in the Valley Cities area soon.
- **Ronnie Jones** has had a stroke and is being treated in the hospital in Jacksonville, FL, where he lives.
- Pray for **Anthony Tompkins** and for his family while he is working far from home.
- Pray that our **Bible class attendance improves** and that we can remain **encouraged** throughout the holiday season, when our numbers are typically way down.
- Please pray for our brother **Pat Guthrie** from Kittanning as he learns what his options are in dealing with his recently diagnosed lung cancer.
- **Bonnie Davis** from the Endwell church needs prayer for excruciating back pain.
- **Ted** has bleeding behind his eye that was caused by a stroke in his eye. He will soon have laser surgery to correct the problem.
- **Jerry** was taken to ER on Thursday morning, and did not feel well enough to travel to worship this morning.
- **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING FOR ALL WE HAVE HERE IN OUR PART OF THE WORLD!**

If you have any prayers or news that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy at barncat7237@gmail.com or text or call (607) 261-0911.