

The Bulletin

Meeks Street Church of Christ

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November 20, 2022

“How To Be An UnThankful Person”

By Brian Meade



The Bible teaches us in 2 Timothy 3:-1-2, *“But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, **unthankful**, unholy,”*

We live in those days now! There are many people today who are never thankful for anyone or anything. What does it take to be in this number?

1. Enjoy Your Blessings, But Don’t Be Concerned Where They Come From.

You can learn to be unthankful by simply ignoring what the Bible says about God being the source of all good things in our life. James 1:17 tells us that *“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.”* (See also Ephesians 5:20; 1 Thessalonians 5:18).

You can really show unthankfulness by forgetting the people who have helped you, even in big ways! In Genesis chapter 40:1-15, when Joseph was in prison, he greatly helped the butler by interpreting his dream and giving him the good news that he would be restored within three days. And in this, Joseph asked the butler to remember him before Pharaoh, but he didn’t (Genesis 40:20-23). He failed to show thankfulness by forgetting Joseph for two years.

In Luke 17:11-19, Jesus heals ten lepers from the horrible disease of leprosy. Their condition made them outcasts and separated them from family, and all others. Their healing should have sparked the greatest of gratitude for their being released by our Savior! But instead, Jesus plainly notices that only one came back to give Him thanks. Jesus even asks the one who did come back, *“So Jesus answered and said, “Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?”* (Luke 17:17).

And when you receive good things in your life, be sure to remind yourself that you did all this by yourself. Don’t ever look at the reality of where they came from— God. And then you will be like the people of Israel, who conveniently forgot to thank God for their great blessings. In Deuteronomy 8:11-20, Moses warned them this could very well happen, and it did happen! They even would say in their heart, *‘My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth.’* (8:17). They were even more unthankful by practicing idolatry, and giving the praise for their blessings to false gods. (8:19-20).

2. Whenever You Have Good In Your Life, Quickly Remind Yourself, “It Should Be Better!”

Why be content with what you have, when it could be more? After all, being content with what you have is to show true appreciation for it; but that would go against thanklessness, and everything it stands for.

Notice in Proverbs 30:15-16, the wise man says, *“The leech has two daughters— Give and Give! There are three things that are never satisfied, Four never say, “Enough!”: The grave, The barren womb, The earth that is not satisfied with water— And the fire never says, “Enough!”* It is never enough for some people in this world! (See also Ecclesiastes 5:10).

We also learn early in life, that being content won't get you more stuff. So, it pays to "look the gift horse in the mouth" to see if it suits us before we can accept it. And even then, we may not keep it for long before trading up to something better. It is a never ending cycle of unthankfulness!

3. Make Sure You Write Down All The Bad Things That Happen To You, So You'll Never Forget!

Don't ever practice what Philippians 1:14 teaches, "*Do all things without complaining and disputing,*" As we may already know well, unthankfulness brings about a lot of grumbling and complaining. Naturally, we can find many things in our life that we can focus on that are displeasing to us.

And when it comes to the people who have let us down, we can remember them by the offense we have suffered by them. It even could be fun to give them all nicknames that are appropriate to the occasion!

We read in Proverbs 17:9, "*He who covers a transgression seeks love, But he who repeats a matter separates friends.*" Forgiveness is not an option for those who want to hang on to their view of offenders. Unthankful people can never show love by letting things go. They take great pains in keeping a journal of everyone who has done anything to upset, hurt, or injure them in any way. And they take time to read that list often to anyone else who will listen.

4. Practice Using Unkind And Negative Words Daily!

Unthankful people can never be optimistic or positive about anything ever going right for them, so don't give optimism a chance.

You should absolutely never rely on Scriptures, such as Philippians 4:4-5, "*Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand.*" And don't ever trust in Philippians 4:13, "*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*" After all, that's way too positive!

But instead, you should always use phrases like, "It's never going to get any better." "I've tried and tried, but it makes no difference!" You should use very often words like: "Can't" "Won't" "Never" and "Miserable" so much so, that everybody knows how you feel about it.

5. Learn To Be Very Selfish, Self-Absorbed, And Self-Centered.

In order to be the most unthankful person you can be, make sure life is all about what you want, not other people. You should forget about being a caring and sharing person, that's for losers! Don't ever listen to the words of the apostle Paul in Philippians 2:3-4, and even Jesus about self-denial in Matthew 16:24-25. And you should make your prayers all about you! (Luke 18:11).

Then you will be a very unhappy, unthankful person indeed! But what will you have accomplished? Who will want to be associated with you? Or want to do things for you? What kind of influence and destiny will you have as an unthankful person? But really, why would anyone want to live that way?

“THE ELAMITES ON PENTECOST” By Joe R. Price

37 'For I will cause Elam to be dismayed before their enemies and before those who seek their life. I will bring disaster upon them, My fierce anger,' says the LORD; 'And I will send the sword after them until I have consumed them. 38 I will set My throne in Elam, and will destroy from there the king and the princes,' says the LORD. 39 'But it shall come to pass in the latter days: I will bring back the captives of Elam,' says the LORD. (Jeremiah 49:37-39, NKJV)

Jeremiah pronounced God's judgment against Elam, one of several denunciations from God's prophet of the idolatrous, oppressive nations surrounding Israel (Jer. 46-51). God's judgment was executed against Elam as the Medes and Persians enveloped it. But, God had additional plans for the region of the lower Tigris River. In the "latter days," God would grant deliverance to "the captives of Elam," but not from the conquerors who consumed their territory. God would bring them salvation from the tyranny of sin through Christ Jesus. Notably, Elamites were present on Pentecost when the apostles preached the good news of salvation in Jesus, who is "both Lord and Christ" (Acts 2:9-11, 34-36). The "latter days" of Jeremiah's prophecy had begun, and the gospel was freeing souls from sin, including its "captives of Elam" (Acts 2:16-17, 21, 37-41). God established His throne in Elam, not with an earthly rule of Jesus on a throne in Jerusalem, but by the gospel. Christ, the king, reigns in righteousness over His kingdom in people's hearts (Lk. 17:20-21; Heb. 1:8). The gospel of Christ will free you from sin's bondage, too (Rom. 1:16-17). Are you ready to be truly free (Jno. 8:31-32, 36)?

If so, believe and obey Jesus like the Elamites on Pentecost.

News and Notes: Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Daniel Holloway, Debbie Keplinger, Sam Johnson, J F Dancer, Robbie, Sheila, and Sherry Doles, Sandi Poole, Nathan Cox, Sandra Oliver, Wesley Trimble, Danny Cottrell, Jerry Trimble.

Jon Smith was released from the doctor this past Tuesday.

Danny Cottrell had more stones removed last Friday, home recovering.

Jimmy And Marsha Briggs.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Fred Johnson
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #1: *“What Can We Do To Honor God?”*

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Workbook: Fred Johnson
Author: Philipians
Starting Page & Question: Paul R. Blake
Page #20, Question #13

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Fred Johnson
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Russell Briggs
Scripture Reading: *Hebrews 2:1-3*
Song Leader: Jerry Kennemur
Lord’s Supper: Danny Sheffield
Assisting: — —
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #2: *“How To Prevent Drifting Away”*
Closing Prayer: Sam Johnson

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

November 23rd:

Auditorium Bible Class: Paul Busby
Workbook: The Miracles Of Jesus
Author: Mike Willis
Starting Page & Question: *Page 36, Question #1*
Invitation: Dan Cottrell
Song Leader: Brian Meade
Closing Prayer: Russell Briggs

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“What Can We Do To Honor The King?”

Lesson Text: **Esther 6:5-12.** Now Let's Reverse That..... **1 Peter 2:17.**

I. We Honor God By Being Respectful Of His Person And His Name.

- We Must Not Take His Name In Vain. **Exodus 20:7; Psalm 111:9.**
- The Jews Took This To The Extreme By Not Ever Writing Or Saying God's Name.
- **Deuteronomy 10:12.** Respecting His Ways. Not Like, **Jeremiah 5:20-25.**
- **John 5:23-24; John 8:49; Matthew 13:57.**
- **Acts 4:7-12; Colossians 3:17; Ephesians 1:20-22; Revelation 5:12.**

II. We Honor God By Behaving Honorably.

- **2 Timothy 2:19-22.**
- **1 Thessalonians 4:3-5.** *“In sanctification and honor”*
- **Proverbs 10:1.** When We Act In Wisdom And Honor.
- We Start By Meditating On Things Honorable. **Philippians 4:8.**
- **1 Thessalonians 2:10-12; 1 Peter 2:11-12.**

III. We Honor Him By Worshipping Him As He Directs Us.

- **Proverbs 3:9,** The Jews Honored God When They Honored God In Sacrifices & Worship.
- **Malachi 1:6-10.** Jews Of Malachi's Day Did Not Honor God.
- Nadab And Abihu Did Not Honor God. **Leviticus 10:1-3.**
- Will-Worship Is Not Honoring God, But Ourselves— **Matthew 15:9; Colossians 2:20-23.**
- Use of Beads and Incense With prayer.
- Easter Services; Special Mother's Day Services; Special Father's Day Services; Christmas.
- Carrying A Large Cross Through The Streets; Literally Crucifying Oneself....
- Instrumental Music With Singing In Worship. (**Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16-17**)
- We Honor God By Singing Praises To Him- **Psalms 104:1-9**

IV. We honor Him By Leading Our Family & Others To Obey/Serve Him.

- **John 12:26.** The Honor We Give To God By His Honor And Approval.... Reciprocated.
- We Honor God By Cheerfully Obeying His Divine Will. **Exodus 19:5; 1 Peter 2:9.**
- **Joshua 24:15; Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 6:4.**
- **Acts 10:24; Colossians 1:28-29.**

“How To Prevent Drifting Away”

Lesson Text: **Hebrews 2:1-4.**

(The Need, The Problem, The Seriousness, The Examination, & The Certainty Of It!).

– Drifting Away Begins When We Slow Down, And Even Stop Doing As We Ought.

– What About Preventives? *“An Ounce Of Prevention Is Worth.....?”*

I. Everyday Let God Say Something To You.

- How Is That One Begins To Drift Away? When We No Longer Care What God says...
- It is “What we have heard” (**Hebrews 2:1**) from God that can help us.
- David’s Attitude: **Psalm 1:1-4; 119:1-18.**
- Why Paul Told Timothy: **1 Timothy 4:12-16.**
- We Can Neglect Bible Study And Drift Away— Don’t Do That!

II. Everyday Say Something To God.

- How Will Prayer Help Us Stay Closer To God? Communication In Relationship?
- How Do We Know God Hears Our Prayers? **2 Corinthians 5:7; 1 Peter 3:12.**
- What Can Hinder Our Prayers:
 1. Doubts, Fears, And Faithlessness. **James 1:6-7.**
 2. Sin. **Psalm 66:16-20; 1 John 3:20-22.**
“Either Prayer Will Stop Sin Or Sin Will Stop Prayer.”
- Prayer Is How Jesus Stayed Close To His Father **John 11:41-42; Hebrews 5:7.**
- We Can Neglect Prayer And Drift Away— Don’t Do That!

III. Everyday Say Something For God.

- In The Marketplace Of Ideals And Opinions— What Do We Say?
- Do We Speak To Others About Our God— **Psalm 145:1-13.**
- Evangelism Is All About Speaking Something For God! **Proverbs 11:30.**
- Encouragement Is Using Our Words To Build Up.
- It Takes Intentional Effort; Boldness To Speak Truth; And Love For The Lost/People.
- Real Power In Confessing Who We Are/Belong To. **1 Timothy 6:12; Luke 12:8-9.**
- We Can Drift Away By Not Standing For Anything! — Don’t Do That!

IV. Everyday Do Something For God.

- Use Our Opportunities For Good- **Galatians 6:10; Ephesians 2:10.**
- Do We Do Good Works To Be Saved, Or Saved To Do Good Works? **Mark 9:41.**
- It Defines What A Christian Is: A Servant Of Jesus Christ! **Matthew 7:21; John 15:8.**
- Be Like Dorcus- **Acts 9:36; Cornelius Acts 10:1-2.**
- Not Like The “One Talent Man” **Matthew 25:14-19; 24-27.** Why?