

Heaven above is softer blue, earth around is sweeter green; something lives in every hue, Christless eyes have never seen."

An Attitude of Gratitude

As I began the weekend and thought of what I want to say in the *View* my thoughts naturally turned to Thanksgiving. After all, I'll be observing my 62nd Thanksgiving on Thursday of this week.

I thought of Jesus who healed the ten lepers, but only one came back to say thank you. Jesus words are poignant, "Were there not ten who were cleansed? Where are the nine?" Luke 17:17.

But then it hit me. Am I one of the nine? Have I not been cleansed? Have I regularly thanked the Lord for the gracious washing of the filth of sin from my soul?

I could do a lot better.

Then I thought again of people who have done so much for me. Have I thanked them? Have I written a note or sent a card or at least tapped out an e-mail to tell them how much I appreciate the kindness?

I could do a lot better at that, too.

Then I thought of all the blessings that are part of my life right now. The great blessing of having a great family — a great wife, great parents who taught me to love the Lord, great in-laws, great kids and *great* grandkids. Wow, God has been good to me. Have I thanked Him enough for those who bring me so much pleasure and enrich my life?

I could do a lot better.

Then there is the spiritual family here at Folsom Point. What a marvelous group of people who have such a great influence on me. They enhance every aspect of my life through the examples they provide and through their steadfast faith, even through crushing adversity.

Thank you, Folsom Point family!

There is so much to be thankful for here. Let's take an inventory of all the good that is done on our behalf and take a moment to thank God and, perhaps, a deacon, an elder (choose one of the others, not me. I don't mean this to be self-serving), an older saint, a young person who is fighting the good fight to be holy, young parents who take the trouble to be here nearly every time the doors open to encourage us, and "stimulate us to good works"; to those who have suffered loss and dealt with adversity with faith and fortitude.

I Th. 5:17 tells us to "give thanks in all circumstances." It seems that even when times are bad, we are to search for the silver lining.

I love the story about the scholar Matthew Henry (his commentary on the Bible has been used by believers for many years). He

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Service Times

Sunday Morning Assembly

9:30 AM

Sunday Evening: 5:00 PM

Wednesday Bible Study

7:30 PM

Classes for all ages.

Private classes arranged at your convenience.

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was once attacked by thieves and robbed. He wrote in his diary: "Let me be thankful first, that I was never robbed before. Second, although they took my purse, they didn't take my life. Third, although they took my all, it was not much. Fourth, let me be thankful because it was I who was robbed and not I who did the robbing."

But not all are grateful. Ausonius said, "Earth produces nothing worse than an ungrateful man." Paul mentions ingratitude in his list of horrible sins (Rm. 1:21). There are many examples that mirror the story of the 9 lepers who didn't thank Jesus.

Some take the goodness extended to them by others for granted. Some seem to think they are the center of the universe and that any good turn done for them is deserved. Some have been taught

that they are entitled to whatever they are given. Even if they say "Thank you," it is hollow and routine.

Seneca said, "He is ungrateful who denies that he has received a kindness which has been bestowed upon him; he is ungrateful who conceals it; he is ungrateful who makes no return for it; most ungrateful of all is he who forgets it." (*De Beneficiis, III, 1*). That stings, but I'm afraid it's true.

It almost goes without saying that a Christian is "thankful" because a Christian is someone who has received the greatest gift of all — the gift of God's beloved Son. When Paul thought of this gift, he could hardly contain himself: "Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift!" (II Cor. 9:15).

DP

A fourth-grader's politically correct report of the origin of Thanksgiving:

The pilgrims came here seeking freedom of you know what.

When they landed, they gave thanks to you know who.

Because of them, we can worship each Sunday, you know where.



The ABCs of Thanksgiving

A lthough things are not perfect
 B ecause of trial or pain,
 C ontinue in thanksgiving
 D o not begin to blame.
 E ven when the times are hard,
 F ierce winds are bound to blow.
 G od is forever able
 H old on to what you know.
 I magine life without His love
 J oy would cease to be.
 K eep thanking Him for all the things
 L ove imparts to thee.
 M ove out of "Camp Complaining"
 N o weapon that is known
 O n earth can yield the power
 P raise can do alone.
 Q uit looking at the future
 R edeem the time at hand;
 S tart every day with worship
 T o "thank" is a command.
 U ntil we see Him coming
 V ictorious in the sky
 W e'll run the race with gratitude
 eX alting God most high.
 Y es, there will be good times
 and yes some will be bad, but...
 Z ion waits in glory...where none
 are ever sad!

Cindy Blackamore