



Volume 4 #46

November 10, 2019

Apple Valley Church of Christ

Seeking and Saving The Lost...

We are honored and blessed to have you worshipping with us today and we extend our warmest welcome. Our service is modeled after the New Testament pattern of worship. If you have questions or concerns please express them to us. We are all here to serve.

Prayer

Health: Zandra, Gloria, Donna, Ebony, Wanda, Leola & Larry, Sister Irma, Sylvia & Patrick, Thom & Mary Elizabeth, TC, Lenard, Rebekah, Prince, Carol and her mother Loretta, Lorena and family, Mike's family, TC's sister Irene, Prince's sister, Leona's health and well being.

Also: Chris's sister Cindy. Wanda's brother Joe. Shannon's sister. The Lasater family. The Evans family as they mourn.

Today's Services

- Singing
- Prayer
- Singing
- Scripture Reading
- Preaching
- Invitation Song
- Communion Song
- Communion
- Offering
- Announcements
- Closing Song

Spiritual Uplifting
Monday Nov. 11th 6:00 PM



God's Plan of Salvation

Hear	Romans 10:17
Believe	Mark 16:15-16
Repent	Luke 13:3-5
Confess	Matthew 10:32-33
Baptism	1Peter 3:1
Live Faithfully	Revelation2:10

Schedule of Services

Sunday AM Bible Class	10:00 AM
Sunday AM Worship	11:00 AM
Sunday PM Worship	5:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Class	7:00 PM



Thanksgiving Baskets

Start collecting things like instant potatoes and gravy. Canned yams. Canned corn and green beans. Canned cranberry sauce. Boxed stuffing mix. Buy frozen turkeys when they go on sale.

For What Do We Give Thanks?

Robert Johnson

Dr. Ralph Wilson, on the website *Joyful Heart*, wrote these words about the first Thanksgiving.

On December 21, 1620 the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth rock. Through the dead of winter, the colony struggled with poor and meager food, strenuous labor, a biting wind that chilled to the bone and the ravages of disease. Nearly half the 102 Mayflower passengers did not live to see spring refresh Cape Cod Bay. Indians named Samoset, Squanto and Massasoit helped the English settlers plant, hunt and fish. The bountiful harvest that autumn led Governor Bradford to invite the Indians to celebrate God's goodness. Ninety tall braves accepted the invitation to join the Pilgrims in a feast of Thanksgiving to God for His blessings.

What lesson did the Pilgrims learn that first Thanksgiving? For one, they learned they needed God. No matter how hard they had labored, they had to face issues beyond their control to survive. Who could have anticipated the harshness of that winter's weather and the diseases that would strike them? Even after doing their best, they were not master of their own destiny. They also learned they needed others to help them cultivate the land, and they needed each other on whom to lean through those tough times. No wonder the Pilgrims and the Indians joined together for a celebration of thanksgiving. What they had for which to be most thankful was their relationship together.

As we approach another Thanksgiving holiday, there is so much for which we can grateful. God has richly blessed us, in spite of all the difficulties we face individually or as a nation. It is good to thank God for the blessings of life, especially since those blessings are dependent on their provision by God. We can still be thankful for a relationship with Him through Jesus Christ, even if the stuff of life is not as abundant as we would like. Paul's epistle to Philippian Christians reminds us, "I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in

prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:12-13 NAS).



We should be thankful for having relationships with others, especially our brothers and sisters in Christ. In difficult times, they are there to encourage us and to lift our spirits. In good times, they are there to rejoice with us. It's not what we can get out of others that counts, as much as it is what they mean to us. "Give thanks to the Lord for He is good; for His loving kindness is everlasting" (Psalm 136:1). "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor" (Romans 12:10). Where would we be without God and Christ as well as without each other in Christ?

This Thanksgiving, be thankful you have family and friends with whom you can spend precious time together. Be thankful for the memories of family and friends who are no longer with you. Be thankful for all the material blessings God offers you, and be more grateful for the spiritual blessings provided in Christ. Be thankful for the nation in which we live, even with the problems it has. Be thankful for the specifics of your life that enable you to have the quality of life you have. Most importantly, though, be thankful for having a relationship with God, with Christ and with each other in Christ. These relationships will carry us on when the possessions of life pass. Without these relationships, what would we be and where would we be? What hope would we have? "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all, in view of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now. For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus" (Philippians 1:3-6).

How?

T. Pierce Brown

Stop worrying. Be happy. Rejoice. Love your enemies. Those are just some of the many

admonitions found in the Bible about which preachers often preach. However, it is far easier to tell a person what he should do than it is to tell him exactly how he is to do it.

When I tell a person to stop worrying because it is a sin, he may respond, "I know it. That is what worries me the most." If I tell a person, "Love your enemies," he may reply, "It is hard enough to love my friends. I do not know how I can love my enemies."

There are at least two values in quoting these commandments directly from the Bible. First, we need to impress upon those who hear that they are not merely good suggestions or advice, but they are commands of God. Second, with the command, we often find hints or directions about **how** to accomplish the command.

For example, in Matthew 6:25-34 when Jesus instructed not to worry, He told in verse 26 that the Heavenly Father feeds the birds and values us more than He does them. Meditating on that fact will help us to obey the command. Then in verse 27, He said, "And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit unto the measure of his life?" He indicated that worry is useless because it accomplishes nothing. Keen awareness of that may help us to stop it as we set our minds on ways to solve whatever problem that confronts us instead of worrying about it. Then, the specific promise of verse 33, if believed, will automatically decrease our worry, for he stated, "But seek ye first his kingdom, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

Those things may help me to overcome worrying, but how can I actually be happy and rejoice when my health is bad, my bones ache, my children are on drugs or in jail, or my insurance company has gone broke and I do not know how I am going to pay my bills? Much of the problem will be solved when we learn not to worry, but we still may need to have some other information or specific rules to learn so we can rejoice.

In the first place, we need to understand what rejoicing is and what it involves. In Colossians 1:24, Paul penned, "Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake." When Jesus taught in Matthew 5:12 to rejoice and to be exceedingly glad, He was speaking to those who would be reviled, persecuted and falsely accused. So, it does not mean the kind of pleasure one gets from eating ice cream or

looking at a beautiful sunset. Rejoicing is an attitude that one can develop as he realizes that God will work all things together for his good if he loves God.

In Philippians 4:4-8, when Paul was writing about overcoming anxiety, gaining peace and always rejoicing, he suggested some rules for doing that. First, pray about everything with thanksgiving. This is a deliberate intellectual and spiritual choice that you can make. When you make it, the promise of verse 7 is sure, "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus." Then in verse 8, there is an additional statement that tells us how we can deliberately achieve the ability to rejoice always. "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honorable, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

It is not as easy for us to find specific quotations that deal with how to learn to love one's enemies or any other person, but I have gleaned from my study of God's Word for 65 years and my own experience in trying to do it, these four simple rules that will help. We can find Scripture that helps illustrate and strengthen each of them but will not include all of them here. The rules are: 1. Think something good about them (Philippians 4:8). It may be that they are so vile that the only good thing you can think of is that Christ valued them enough to die for them. Meditate on that. 2. Say good about and to them when possible (Titus 3:2). 3. Do good for them when the opportunity presents itself (Romans 12:20). 4. Receive good from them if and when they offer it. When you receive good from God or another human, there may arise a feeling of gratitude that can grow into love. Remember that this love (*agape*) is not an emotion but a deliberate choice of will to give of what you are and have for another's welfare. By the help of God and His Word, you can make that choice.

Preachers and Teachers, try to teach your students how to do whatever it is you admonish them to do. Two primary ways to do it is to show the scriptural principles upon which they are to act, and then demonstrate them in your own life.

