

**GIVING
THANKS**

**MATTERS
OF THE
HEART**

Living Word Church
Sunday, November 22, 2009

Welcome to Living Word Church

P.O. Box 1944, 1705 Barracada Road, Walterboro, SC 29488
Phone: 843-538-8815 Website: LivingWordChurch.com

Rev. Daniel M. Cooper, Senior Pastor

Welcome

Welcome! We're glad you're here and hope you feel at home. Whether you are just beginning to ask questions about God or you are a Christian wanting to deepen your faith, Living Word is a place you can call home and find spiritual help, hope, and encouragement.

Thanks for Coming Today

We are honored to acknowledge your visit today. Don't worry, we won't embarrass you. We simply ask that you share your name and your choice of contact information — email, address, phone, however you prefer for us to acknowledge your visit.

You can do this by filling out a "WELCOME" card (available from one of our volunteers or on the welcome table in the foyer) and dropping the card in the offering or returning it to a volunteer. We will contact you to thank you for attending and see if we may be of service to you.

Operation Christmas Child Update

A special thanks to Cathy Hiers and to everyone who donated a shoebox to Operation Christmas Child. **We received a total of 255 shoeboxes.**

Buy a Turkey & Support Missions

Volunteers will be frying turkeys as a Thanksgiving missions outreach. All money from the turkey sales will go to Haiti Under God, a ministry sharing God's love with the people of Haiti through evangelism, feeding children, and orphanages.

Would you like a fried turkey for Thanksgiving? Would you like to give a turkey to another family? Let us do the work for you. We will buy the turkey and fry it. You can bless your family, or another family, and give to a good cause in the process. The suggested donation for a 10-12 lb fried turkey is \$35. Turkeys can be picked up on Wednesday, Nov.25, or Thursday, Nov 26.

To order a turkey, or to volunteer frying turkeys, please contact Donald Lyons (843) 909-8076.

Do You Have an Extra Coat?

Matthew Judy, the 14-year-old grandson of Gail Nix, is collecting coats for needy people as part of a mission challenge for Christ in Youth. Matthew has collected 200 coats toward his goal of 500. Any help will be greatly appreciated. If you have a coat to donate, please bring it to the church or see Gail Nix.

GIVING THANKS

Psalm 100; Luke 17:11-19; Ephesians 5:19-20; Philippians 4:6-7;
Colossians 2:6-7; I Thessalonians 5:16-18

Thanksgiving is the act of giving thanks. It is the grateful acknowledgement of benefits or favor, especially to God.

1. We give thanks, not because of how much we have, but because of _____.
2. We give thanks, not because God demands it, but because it pleases God and helps us to _____.
3. We give thanks, not for our problems, but because _____ when life is tough.
4. We give thanks to _____ and a critical spirit.
5. We give thanks to _____.
6. We give thanks _____.
7. We give thanks for all that Christ _____ for us.

Answers: 1. our relationship with God 2. appreciate God's grace 3. God gives us strength
4. overcome a proud heart 5. overcome selfishness 6. regardless of our circumstances
7. has done and will do

LIFE GROUP — HOMEWORK & DISCUSSION

Giving Thanks

Have you ever wondered, “What is God’s will for me?” Wouldn’t it be great to open the Bible and read “This is God’s will for you!”? Well, you can. No kidding! You can read it for yourself in 1 Thessalonians 5:18, “In everything give thanks; **for this is God’s will for you** in Christ Jesus” (NASB).

It doesn’t get much clearer than that. Giving thanks is God’s will for you. Learning to give God thanks no matter what happens in life is an attitude and a way of life that God wants to cultivate in all of us.

Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote, “If the stars should appear one night in a thousand years, how would men believe and adore; and preserve for many generations the remembrance of the city of God which had been shown! But every night come out these envoys of beauty, and light the universe with their admonishing smile.”

Warren Wiersbe adds, “Emerson said that if the stars came out only once a year, everybody would stay up all night to behold them. We have seen the stars so often that we don’t bother to look at them anymore. We have grown accustomed to our blessings.” (God Isn’t In a Hurry, Baker Books; Grand Rapids, MI, 1994, p. 77)

God’s blessings surround us. Yet it is so easy to take them for granted. It seems the more we take God’s blessings for granted the more we tend to take God and other people for granted as well. Giving thanks and cultivating a thankful attitude helps us break out of the rut of taking God, His blessings, and other people for granted.

When it comes to giving thanks there are three types of people:

- 1. Those who do not give thanks.**
- 2. Those who give thanks with the wrong attitude or for the wrong reasons.**
- 3. Those who give thanks from a grateful heart.**

In this Life Group lesson we will briefly discuss these three types of people and see what we can learn from each of them.

LIFE IN THE WORD

1. **Those who do not give thanks. Read Romans 1:20-23, 28-32.** Verse 21 describes people who know and recognize God but do not honor and glorify Him as God or give Him thanks. Verse 28 points out they do not acknowledge God or consider Him worth the knowing. This passage goes on to describe the downward spiral from there. Why do you think the failure to acknowledge God, honor God, and thank God leads to such terrible consequences?

Read Luke 17:11-19. In this story 10 men have a terrible skin disease which makes them outcasts from society. The Jewish law required them to cover their faces and cry out “Unclean!” whenever anyone came near. The word translated as “face” in this passage is the same word used to mean “presence.” The idea conveyed here is that a person with this disease had to keep their presence hidden. Their faces could not be exposed so they were unknown to others. They were required to keep a distance from family, friends, strangers—anyone and everyone. Verses 12-13 point out they stood at a distance calling out, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!”. From a distance, Jesus healed all 10 of them. Yet only one came back to thank him. What do you think may have caused the nine to go on their way without coming back to thank Jesus? Why do you think the one came back to thank him? How do you think Jesus felt when only one came back to give thanks? Do you think we have to give God thanks for Him to bless us?

2. **Those who give thanks with the wrong attitude or for the wrong reasons. Read Luke 18:9-14.** Luke tells us that Jesus told this parable because some people were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else. Two men are praying and one of them thanks God that he is not like other people. He points out the mistakes of others and congratulates himself on his successes. Jesus points out that this man is religious. He is fasting. He is praying. He is tithing. He is thanking God. But

what does Jesus want us to understand about this man's attitude and his reasons for giving thanks? What does Jesus want us to understand about the other man's attitude?

- 3. Those who give thanks from a grateful heart. Read Mark 14:1-9.** In the house of a former leper, a woman with a grateful heart pours a year's worth of wages over the head of her King. Jesus tells everyone—including you and me—remember this woman, and honor her thanksgiving by telling this story wherever you go. **Read John 11:1-2 & 12:3.** Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus, anoints the feet of Jesus with a year's worth of wages, then taking her hair, her glory according to 1 Corinthians 11:15, she wipes the feet of Jesus, honoring the One who fills her heart with gratitude. What do you see in the hearts of these women? In the hearts of the people around them? In the heart of Jesus? What can we learn about giving thanks from all of this?

LIFE AT HOME

British author Rudyard Kipling, best known for *The Jungle Book*, made a fortune from his writing career. One day a reporter approached him and said, "I've read that someone has calculated all the money you've made from your books, and it comes to \$100 per word." Then, hoping to turn the meeting into a good story, the man reached into his pocket and said, "Here's \$100, Mr. Kipling. Now give me one of your hundred-dollar words." The writer took the bill, put it in his wallet, looked at the reporter, and simply said, "Thanks."

"Thanks" is a precious word and a priceless attitude. We have a Thanksgiving tradition in our family. Before we serve the Thanksgiving meal we go around the room offering each person the opportunity to share something they are thankful for. At first some may resist or find it awkward, but by the time we go around the room there is usually not a dry eye in the room. Giving thanks melts hearts. I encourage you to try this at your Thanksgiving meal. And if your Life Group has the time, try it during your meeting. Don't embarrass anyone, simply provide the opportunity for grateful hearts to open up and give thanks. You may want to keep some Kleenex handy too.

CHURCH SERVICE TIMES

Sunday

First Service	9:00 AM to 10:00 AM
Second Service	10:30 AM to 12:00 PM
Children's Church	10:30 PM to 12:00 PM
RockSolid Youth	4:00 PM to 7:30 PM

LIFE GROUP TIMES & LOCATIONS

Life Groups are small groups of people who meet weekly in homes throughout the community to study, to share, and to support one another in their Christian lives. Each group is led by a trained leader. A typical meeting lasts about an hour and a half and includes light refreshments. Our current groups are listed here. Call one today for details on their group or call our Life Group coordinators Donald & Retta Lyons (909-8076 or 908-0057). You can also email Donald at dlyons@lowcountry.com.

Sunday 3:00 PM

English Strickland
Randall Nettles

Location

Magnolia Place
Apartments

Group

Residents of
Magnolia Place

Sunday 4:00 PM

Raymond & June Hiott
538-2172

225 Wells Lane
(off Bells Hwy)

All ages

Donald & Retta Lyons
909-8076 or 908-0057

5672 Sniders Hwy
(4 miles from I-95)

All ages

Sunday 6:00 PM

Ray & Josie Colson
538-2117

1789 Sidneys Road
(Northside)

All ages

Rick & Debbie Linder
562-2417

Smoaks

All ages

John & Barbara Steele
549-7751

30 Waverly Street
(Longleaf)

All ages

LIFE GROUP TIMES & LOCATIONS

Sunday 6:30 PM

Joe & Julie Epple
Linda Frazier
835-2327

Location

Cottageville

Group

All ages

Tuesday 6:30 PM

Bob & Janet Rogers
599-1011 or 599-1010

Living Word Church
(in the Pebble)

All ages

Wednesday 6:30 PM

John & Pam Maxlow
217-8395 or 217-8389

21 Prestwick Place
/corner Wexford Way
(right on Wexford—past country club)

All ages

Clyde & Bonnie Reid
532-1708 or 835-5249

202 Stark Drive
(Woodland Terrace)

All ages

Ben Langdale
Shawn Langdale
893-6859

299 Dandridge Road
(Hyde Park)

Teenage Boys

Stacy Langdale
909-0758 or 893-6456

6117 Jefferies Highway
(Walterboro North)

Teenage Girls

Thursday 7:00 PM

Linda Frazier, Pam Maxlow,
Sharon Cooper

Living Word Church
(in the church)

Women

Buddy Buchanan
908-1510

Living Word Church
(in the fellowship hall)

Men

Andy Harrison
909-1122

Living Word Church
(in the fellowship hall)

Men

Friday 5:00 PM

Andy Harrison
909-1122

106 James Street
(Forest Hills)

Boys & Girls
6th—8th grade