

Lo The d Ou Righteousness

Remembering to be Thankful

Elder Charles Moore



Psalm is speaking of the time in the wilderness when the people of Israel were tired

At the end of this month we observe Thanksgiving, most of us with family and friends and a table filled with food, more food than any of us need. As we observe our season of thanksgiving, let us be grateful to God not only in word but also in deed. Let our gratitude find expression in a resolve to live a life that is less selfish and more consecrated to Jesus. Remember, no matter how bad life seems to be it could be worse and it is worse for someone else. No matter how bad life seems to be there are always more good things happening than there are bad. When we sit around tables laden with sumptuous delicacies, let us not forget that half of the world's people go to bed hungry. As we enjoy the comforts of cozy homes, let us not forget that great numbers of people are homeless. As we go to our churches to thank

God for material and spiritual blessings, let us remember that millions of people have never heard the Gospel message of salvation. Let us remember the servants of God in many parts of the world who have deprived themselves to take the Gospel to those who have not yet been reached with the message of Jesus Christ.

We must remember that Scripture teaches us and life confirms it that the good things of this life are the gifts of God, and that he is the Donor of all our blessings: "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights." (James 1:17)

One of the frightening passages in the Bible says, "He gave them their request, but sent leanness into their soul." (Psalm 106:15) This

of the manna and asked for meat to eat. God gave them what they wanted but they didn't enjoy it. Many people have riches today as a result of greed and covetousness; but their souls are lean, their hearts are cold toward God, their consciences are dulled and their minds are blinded. They are spiritually poor. We must remember that though the bread is in our hand, yet the blessing is in God's hand. Should God withhold his blessing, nothing that we have would do us any good. Our food would not nourish us and our clothes would not warm us.

The Bible repeatedly calls upon us to remember. "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits." (Psalm 103: 2) He doesn't tell us to remember all of His benefits. There is a difference? The difference is that God's benefits to us are so

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abundant and they have come in so many thousands of ways that it would be impossible for us to remember ALL of His benefits. We may not remember them all but at Thanksgiving we need to:

Remember our Savior "giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light. For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." (Colossians 1:12-14)

Remember God's forgiveness that we might forgive others. "Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you." (Ephesians 4:32)

Remember our humanity that we might stop trying to be God. "Know that the LORD Himself is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture." (Psalms 100:3) We are the creature He is the Creator.

Remember God's greatness that we might be humble. Pride is a terrible disease that afflicts each of us. Isaiah asks, "Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, And marked off the heavens by the span, And calculated the dust of the earth by the measure, And weighed the mountains in a balance And the hills in a pair of scales? ... Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket, And are regarded as a speck of dust on the scales; Behold, He lifts up the islands like fine dust. (Isaiah 40:12, 15)

When we remember how great God is, all we should do is humbly bow before Him.

Remember Jesus Christ who is our peace. Peace is a gift of God. Though nations have rejected the peace that God offers, yet millions of people around the world have peace at this moment because they have found the secret of peace. They have peace in their hearts: "Being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." (Romans 5:1)

The real war in which men and women are engaged is a war of rebellion against God. This rebellion has brought about destruction, suffering, misery, frustration and a thousand other ills to the population of this world. God longs to see this rebellion end. He sent his Son, Jesus, to the cross as a demonstration of His love and his mercy.

At-Large News Diane Begeman



October! Fall has arrived. This means the Fall Business Meeting and Retreat Weekend. Friends come from far and wide to come for fellowship, food and a great time. As usual this happened again.

Deborah and Jim Stoner and Sonya Pease came from the East to be with us. We had great food on Friday night. Tim Begeman as usual had a great fun activity for us all. We got to find out some interesting facts about friends we thought we knew.

Kevin and Heather Lane continue to slog it out in California. It was great to hear from them. Life is settling back in to a routine for them after having a rough year.

Rip Ripley continues on with his physical therapy for his shoulder. He says he doesn't have complete range of motion but he's happy with what he has. He is such a delight to talk to when I call. He's always upbeat.

Leslie and Tom Miller had a visit from David Charles this month. They were the first visit on David Charles' cross country adventures. They had a great time and missed him after he left I'm sure.

On October 21st Dorothy Layton passed away. She had been ill a short time. Elder Moore, Aurine and David, Dave and Terrie Fedor and Tim and I were able to go East for the funeral. Elder Moore had the service. Private burial was held a few days later. The grandchildren and some of the great-grandchildren stood together and told some of their memories of their Mimi. What a tribute to her. She was well loved and we will miss her. We send our heartfelt condolences to Dorothy's children Deborah and Jim Stoner, Walter and Pam Layton, Karen and Mark Dorsey and Lisa Bishop and all of her extended family.

We saw Hannah Phillips who looked great. She has aged a little but I had no trouble recognizing her. I met Evelyn Layton. I had heard about Evelyn but had not met her. She went to the old church camps. She has a DVD she's going to send of some old footage that was on 8mm film. We're looking forward to seeing it.

I leave you for this month with this thought-----
God gave you a gift of 86,400 seconds today. Have you used one to say "thank you"?

Michigan Report

Tim Begeman



This month we kicked off October with our annual fall retreat/business meeting weekend. For the first meeting on Friday we played an icebreaker get to know each other bingo game. You had to go around the room and interview other people and ask them unusual questions, such as: Have you ever ridden a camel? Or: Have you ever lived in another country? The game was supposed to be over when you got four questions in a row answered but people got into it and wouldn't stop until they got most of the questions filled in. Saturday morning we had our normal service where Elder Moore focused his message on the rest we find in Christ. Saturday afternoon we invited the Detroit Rescue Mission Choir to perform a mini concert which we all enjoyed. It was a great mix of spellbinding miraculous testimonials and an offering of soulful impromptu musical excursions with many singing references to the appreciation of our pre-concert lunch menu. Saturday evening all interested parties were invited to fellowship at Diane and I's humble bucolic abode. We had a number of sojourner out-of-towners join us for the whole weekend which added much appreciated informative and gregarious interactions. All in all we had a tremendously fun filled blessed retreat weekend.

We started our weekly Bible studies this month which gives those involved a palpable and nourishing spiritual lift and insight. Our focus is the minor prophet book of Amos. Amos is a good historical snapshot on God's way of dealing with a people that had cyclically lost their way. If you've never read the book of Amos consider the following scenario: you get to heaven and you meet Amos himself and he asks you what did you think of my book? What would your answer be?

As the season of migrating birds set in David Charles took their example and took a long drive across the country side. He drove over 5000 miles visiting people along the way. The family of Leslie and Tom Miller who reside in Kansas were the first people he visited on his long mobilizations. As of this writing he made it back safe and sound which was an answer to prayer.

This month Kathy Smeltzer's extended sabbatical in the pleasant and restful Phoenix Arizona came to an end. We were all glad to see her walk in for the first time in a while, but nobody was as glad as her husband and grandchildren.

Also this month on the 21st we were all saddened to hear that Dorothy Layton passed away after a short illness. Diane, I, Dave, Terrie, Elder Moore, Aurine and their son David made the trek east to attend the funeral. Elder Moore took charge and officiated at the funeral. Even though it was a heavy hearted occasion we were glad to see all of our friends and Dorothy's family of whom we haven't seen some of them for a long time.

Good friends are hard to find, harder to leave, and impossible to forget.

CHURCH OF THE
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PUN-ishment

Energizer Bunny arrested -- charged with battery.

My wife really likes to make pottery, but to me it's just kiln time.

I fired my masseuse today. She just rubbed me the wrong way.

A Freudian slip is when you say one thing but mean your mother.

If electricity comes from electrons, does morality come from morons?

Corduroy pillows are making headlines.

Does the name Pavlov ring a bell?

A successful diet is the triumph of mind over platter.