

Cultivating a Thankful Heart

The foundation of an attitude of thankfulness is a life lived in fellowship with Christ. As Colossians 2:6-7 suggests, thankfulness is the overflow of being rooted and built up in Christ. As we abide in Him, as we see His power at work in us and through us, as we call upon Him for our needs and experience His provision, our response will be thanksgiving. Like any other trait of godly character, thankfulness is a result of the Holy Spirit's ministry in our hearts. He gives us a thankful spirit, but He does this through our fellowship with Christ.

But though an attitude of thankfulness is the work of the Holy Spirit, it also comes as a result of personal effort on our part. We must cultivate the habit of always giving thanks for everything (Ephesians 5:20). One way we can do this is to expand our mealtime expression of thanks to include other blessings beyond the food before us. Another way is to begin and end the day with a time of thanksgiving.

Psalms 92:1-2 says, "It is good to praise the Lord and make music to your name, O Most High, to proclaim your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night." As we arise in the morning we can thank God for His love, which is assured to us throughout the day. As we retire, we can thank Him for specific demonstrations of His faithfulness during the day....

Along with the practical steps for cultivating an attitude of thankfulness and a habit of giving thanks, we need to remember the place of the word of God and prayer in developing traits of godly character. An ungrateful heart (which all of ours are by nature) must be transformed by the renewal of the mind. This transformation is the work of the Holy Spirit as we fill our minds with the word of God.... Memorize key verses on thanksgiving.... As you meditate on these verses, ask God to give you a genuine attitude of thanksgiving so that you, too, may be found in the company of the one leper who returned to give God thanks.

(Jerry Bridges, *The Practice of Godliness*, Colorado Springs: Navpress, 105-06)

Riverbend Bible Church

Worshiping on Our Lord's Day, November 21, 2021

Call to Worship

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

(*Trinity Hymnal*, #53 and words on-screen)

"Give Me Jesus" (words on-screen)

Prayer Adoring God

Congregational Thanksgiving

"My Heart Is Filled with Thankfulness" (words on-screen)

God's Word Preached: "We Thank God ..." (Psalm 75:1, p. 487)

Congregational Thanksgiving

"Christ Is Mine Forevermore" (words on-screen)

God's Word Preached: "We Thank God ..." (Psalm 75:1, p. 487)

Congregational Thanksgiving

"I Love to Tell the Story"

(*Trinity Hymnal*, #478 and words on-screen)

God's Word Preached: "We Thank God ..." (Psalm 75:1, p. 487)

Fellowship at the Lord's Table

"Jesus, Thank You" (words on-screen)

Congregational Thanksgiving

Pastoral Prayer / Silent Prayer

"My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"

(*Trinity Hymnal*, #521 and words on-screen)

Departing Blessing

Thanksgiving 2021

“We Give Thanks” (Psalm 75, p. 487)

To _____ We Give Thanks

_____ We Give Thanks

_____ We Give Thanks

Church Life Notes

Historic Faith

- **Make the Faith Personal:** Do you have questions about the Bible, faith, or something you heard here today? Just ask. We would love to talk with you. Take a copy of “Two Ways to Live” as you leave to better understand the gospel. If you need a Bible, take one from the bookshelf as our gift.
- **Next Week:** We begin a month to focus on Jesus’ promise that he would come again and how he kept his promise to come the first time at Christmas. We call this season “Advent.” We will look back to the Old Testament book of Ezekiel as we look forward to Christ’s return.

Honest Fellowship

- **Keep Current:** Receive Pastor Bob’s weekly update called “The Current” in your Inbox. Email him (address below) with a request to add your email. This will give you a running church calendar and details for upcoming events as well as spiritual encouragement.
- **Calling all Ladies For “Sharing the Gospel 101”** on Wednesday, December 8, 6:30 p.m., at the church building. Hear from Emily Alexander who is sharing the gospel to the Somali people in Kansas City. She comes to equip us to share our faith in everyday conversations. All ladies welcome! Contact Amanda Schrader for details (913-426-5141)
- **Member Meeting:** December 5 at 5 p.m. Budget discussion and approval for 2022 as well as information about future ministry initiatives.

Humble Service

- **Loving the Children:** Serve once/month in the nursery during the second half of the worship service. Share the blessing and the burden. Contact Amanda Schrader to learn more (913-426-5141).
- **Upcoming Opportunities:** We will host a Christmas Carol Concert on December 12. We can use help with hospitality. See Pastor Bob.
- **Childcare:** Today – Emma Ramirez; back-up Ashton Schrader
Next Week – Miranda Tull; back-up Addy Schrader

Elders: Bob Flack—785-313-1390, flack.bob@gmail.com
Larry Scott—913-367-1712, 79larry.scott@gmail.com
Brandon Tackett—785-458-2291, tackettbr@gmail.com

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Director for Public Worship:

Joe Bridgman—913-358-3615, joeandbeccab@gmail.com

Riverbend Bible Church seeks to build a Christ-centered community by: delighting in the historic faith founded in the Christian Scriptures; practicing honest fellowship with God and each other through covenant membership; and offering humble service by displaying and declaring the gospel in the Atchison area and to the ends of the earth.