

Thank you, ...Alexis Brown
Speaker for today

A Real Challenge!

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and pleading with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 4:6-7

December Birthdays

17 Bill Brown 18 Alexis Brown
22 Elizabeth Medina. 31 Bob Pescador

December Anniversaries

18 Jim & Marie Burruss

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

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Indio Informer

Vol. 36 No. 47
November 30, 2025

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding.”
Proverb 3:5

- *“Fight the good fight”*
- *“Keep the faith”*
- *“Finish the course”*

Thanksgiving

By Ron Thomas

If we all think about it for a few moments, each of us would have much to say about those things in life for which we are grateful. All of us, I hope, are grateful for our families. All of us, I hope, are grateful for the employment we have, the material blessings afforded us, our friends, etc. There is an appropriateness to thank the Lord for such things in our lives.

Are you grateful for the Lord’s church? No doubt many of us pray for the local church frequently, expressing to Him who is above all how grateful we are. Think of Ephesians 5:27 a little along this line that He *“might present the church to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish”* (ASV).

How can we express our thanksgiving to the Lord for His church? Since the Lord is going to present to Himself the church as a glorious body of the saved, we need to consider the life we live. Is the life we live, individually, a holy life, or a confused life. If it is confused, perhaps it may be confused for one of three reasons. First, if it is confusing, is it because we don’t know something? The remedy for that is *“Thy word*

is a lamp unto my feet, And light unto my path” (119:105, ASV).

Let us turn on the light and walk clearly. Second, if it is confusing, is it because we refuse to submit ourselves to the Lord’s teaching? If so, then let us be reminded that It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God (Heb. 10:31). Third, if it is confusing, is it because we struggle with implementation of the Lord’s words, but the distractions scream at us? Then let us resolve to minimize those distractions by setting our mind on the things that are above, not on the things that are upon the earth (Colossians 3:2).

When there no longer is any confusion, one’s gratitude is reflected in his actions because his heart (mind) understands that which is important. Frequently, one can tell much by what another says, or does not say. When people see or hear you, what do they hear? Be sure to let them hear how grateful you are, not only for the things in life, but for Him who gives Life to those who obey Him.

“Think”fullness Leads to Thankfulness

By Edd Sterchi

Did you know that our English words “think” and “thank” come from the same root? I believe that brings forth an important concept. Our thankfulness is based upon our “think”fullness. In other words, we can always give thanks if we just give it some thought.

That’s what David seems to be doing in the 103rd Psalm. He begins by saying “*Bless the LORD*” (v.1). That phrase in the Hebrew means to express gratitude. He then states, “*And forget not all His benefits*” (v.2). David then goes on to list a few “benefits” of knowing the Lord, like forgiveness and healing (v.3), protection and blessings in life (v.4), food and revival of spirit (v.5) – on and on he goes.

As David thought upon the benefits that God gives, his response was to thank Him. We should be no different. No matter what circumstances the world puts in our life, we can always thank God – if we’ll just take some time to think on Him! Think on what He has done and has promised to do. So give it a try – think and we will thank!

“In Everything Give Thanks”

By Patrick Hogan

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”
1 Thessalonians 5:16-19

The above reference is just one of many in Scripture that encourage Christians to have a positive outlook. As a matter of fact, the second admonition, “*pray without ceasing,*” is one good reason to rejoice and to be thankful. Regardless of what happens we have the avenue of prayer by which we may communicate with the Father!

The third instruction, “*in everything give thanks*” may sometimes be more difficult to follow. There are some situations in which we find it difficult to be thankful. Perhaps an observation by commentator Matthew Henry can encourage us to be more thoughtful, and therefore more thankful, in those types of situations. When Henry discovered that he had been robbed, he entered the following in his daily journal:

I thank Thee first because I was never robbed before; second, because although they took my purse, they did not take my life; third, although they took my all, it was not much; and fourth, because it was I who was robbed and not I who robbed.

While we hear much about thanksgiving during the last weeks of each year, may we cultivate a constant attitude of thankfulness. As Christians we have much for which to give thanks.