

The Gravity of Gratitude by John Piper

But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful . . . (2 Timothy 3:1-2)

Notice how ingratitude goes with pride, abuse, and insubordination.

In another place Paul says, "Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking . . . but instead let there be thanksgiving" (Ephesians 5:4). So, it seems that gratitude, thankfulness, is the opposite of ugliness and violence.

The reason this is so is that the feeling of gratitude is a humble feeling, not a proud one. It is other-exalting, not self-exalting. And it is glad-hearted, not angry or bitter. Bitter thankfulness is a contradiction in terms.

thankfulness and overcoming bitterness and ugliness and disrespect and violence is a strong belief in God, the Creator and Sustainer and Provider and Hope-giver. If we do not believe we are deeply indebted to God for all we have and hope to have, then the very spring of gratitude has gone dry.

So, I conclude that the rise of violence and sacrilege and ugliness and insubordination in the last times is a God-issue. The basic issue is a failure to feel gratitude at the upper levels of our dependence.

When the high spring of gratitude to God fails at the top of the mountain, soon all the pools of thankfulness begin to dry up further down the mountain. And when gratitude goes, the sovereignty of the self condones more and more corruption for its pleasure.

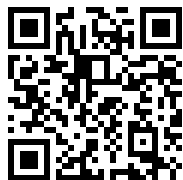
Pray for a great awakening of humble gratitude.

The key to unlocking a heart of

Events

Today: Hawfields Ministry 3 PM
11/29 Youth Prayer 7:15 PM
12/2 Ladies Missionary Society 9 AM
12/3 College & Career Lunch 1 PM
12/3 7th/8th Christmas Party 7 PM
12/17 Christmas Music Program PM service

Give



Upcoming Events



Pastors

Gary Hendrix	Stephen Byrd
Charles Fortner	Robert Fisher
Stu Johnston	Bob Prentice
Andy Dunkerton	Michael Lopes

Service Times

—Sunday School 9:30 am
—Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 am
—Sunday Evening Worship 5:30 pm
—Wednesday Prayer Meeting 7:15 pm

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GRACE
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November 26, 2017

He is the Image of the Invisible God

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al español
disponible en
servicios
de AM y PM

Morning Worship

Call to Worship Opening Hymn

Nick Gaines When All Thy Mercies

1. When all Thy mercies, O my God, my rising soul surveys,
Transported with the view, I'm lost in wonder, love, and praise.
Unnumbered comforts to my soul Thy tender care bestowed,
Before my infant heart conceived from Whom those comforts flowed. **(Chorus)**

Through all eternity to Thee a joyful song I'll raise.

For oh, eternity's too short to utter all Thy praise!

2. When worn with sickness, oft hast Thou with health renewed my face.
And when in sins and sorrow sunk renewed my soul with grace.
Ten thousand thousand precious gifts my daily thanks employ;
Nor is the least a cheerful heart that tastes those gifts with joy. **(Chorus)**

3. Through every period of my life Thy goodness I'll pursue,
And after death, in distant worlds, the glorious theme renew. **(Chorus)**

To utter all Thy praise!

Text: Joseph Addison Music: Stephen Barnes © 1997 Stephen Barnes Music Used by Permission

10,000 Reasons

**(Chorus) Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul; worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship Your holy name.**

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning,
it's time to sing Your song again.

Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me,
let me be singing when the evening comes. **(Chorus)**
You're rich in love and You're slow to anger.

Your name is great and Your heart is kind.

For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing;
ten thousand reasons for my heart to find. **(Chorus)**

And on that day, when my strength is failing,
the end draws near, and my time has come;

still, my soul will sing Your praise unending
ten thousand years, and then forever more! **(Chorus 2x)**

I'll worship Your holy name, I'll worship Your holy name.

Text and Music: Matt Redman and Jonas Myrin © 2011 ThankYou Music Used by Permission CCLI # 1899094

Scripture Reading

Matthew 26:1-16, page 831

Pastoral Prayer

Offertory Preparatory

#535 How Good It Is Jesus, Thank You

The mystery of the cross I cannot comprehend, the agonies of Calvary.
You, the perfect Holy One, crushed Your Son, drank the bitter cup reserved for me.

(Chorus) Your blood has washed away my sin. Jesus, thank You.

The Father's wrath completely satisfied, Jesus, thank You.

Once Your enemy, now seated at Your table, Jesus, thank You.

By Your perfect sacrifice I've been brought near. Your enemy You've made Your friend.

Pouring out the riches of Your glorious grace, Your mercy and Your kindness know no end.

(Chorus) Your blood has washed away my sin. Jesus, thank You.

The Father's wrath completely satisfied, Jesus, thank You.

Once Your enemy, now seated at Your table, Jesus, thank---

Your blood has washed away my sin. Jesus, thank You.

The Father's wrath completely satisfied, Jesus, thank You.

Once Your enemy, now seated at Your table, Jesus, thank You.

(Bridge) Lover of my soul, I want to live for You. Lover of my soul,
I want to live for You.

Lover of my soul, I want to live for You. **(Final Chorus, 1 x)**

Words and Music: Pat Sczebel © 2003 Integrity's Hosanna! Music Used by Permission CCLI # 1899094

Sermon

Pastor Gary Hendrix

Evening Worship

Call to Worship Opening Hymn

Pastor Stephen Byrd Hymn of Thanksgiving

I thank You, Lord, for Your sov'reign goodness,
the mercy You've shown me, Your glorious church.

I thank You, Lord, for justification, divine contemplation,
the comfort and goodness and truth of Your Word.

I thank You, Lord, for the joys of communion,
of table and closet, the sweetness of prayer.

I thank You, Lord, for the saints gone before us, the heavenly chorus,
and future rejoicing in "The LORD who is There."

**(Chorus) Surely goodness and mercy follow me all of my days---and I will dwell in
the house of the Lord, forever and ever, Amen.**

I thank You, Lord, for each precious baby,
the blessings of children, the pleasures of home.

I thank You, Lord, for opening bare wombs, for conquering the tomb,
the promise of reaping from tears we have sown.

I thank You, Lord, for corporate mercies,
the work of Your Spirit, the gifts we employ.

I thank You, Lord, for heavenly glimpses, for all that Your Word says,
the giving of thanks with Your people in joy.

**Surely goodness and mercy follow me all of my days---and I will dwell in the house
of the Lord, forever and ever, Amen.**

I thank You, Lord, for restoring the lost years,
for bottling my tears, renewing my soul.

I thank You, Lord, for healing diseases, salvation in Jesus,
for each wand'ring sheep that's brought back to the fold.

I thank You, Lord, for the trials you have brought me,
the patience you've taught me in suff'ring and loss.

I thank You, Lord, for the hope that You give me, that You'll never leave me,
the work of redemption, for gold from the dross.

**Surely goodness and mercy follow me all of my days---and I will dwell in the house
of the Lord, forever and ever, Amen.**

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Scripture Reading

Pastoral Prayer

Offertory Preparatory

#31 My God, How Wonderful Be Thou My Vision

1. Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art—

Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

2. Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;

Thou my great Father, I Thy true son,
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

3. Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;

Thou and Thou only, first in my heart
High King of heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

4. High King of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'ns Sun!

Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

Text: Ancient Irish hymn, tr. by Mary E. Byrne, versified by Eleanor H. Hull

Music: Irish Folk melody; arr. by David Allen, © 1986 WORD Music Used by Permission CCLI # 1899094

Sermon

Pastor Charles Fortner