

**“I shall always be ready to remind you of these things...”**  
**2 Peter 1:21**



**CABOT WESTSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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 Cabot, AR 72023  
[cabotwestsidechurchofchrist.com](http://cabotwestsidechurchofchrist.com)

**When We Meet**

Sunday  
 Bible Classes – 9:00 am  
 Worship – 10:00 am, 5:00 pm  
Wednesday  
 Bible Classes – 7:00 pm

**Our Elders**

R.D. Hopper  
 Norman Kemper

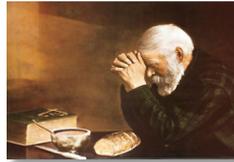
**Our Deacons**

Troy Hunter  
 Kelly Kendall  
 Tony Ramick

**Our Preacher**

Alex Hale

**Bringing Thanksgiving Back**  
 By Alex Hale



In Luke 17, Jesus heals ten lepers, only to be thanked by one. In response, the Lord asks, “*Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine?*” Jacob Hudgins writes, “Few traits are as distasteful to us as ingratitude. All of us have felt a twinge of anger when our hard work or generous gesture went unappreciated by someone. But more than just being socially unacceptable, ungratefulness has terrible effects on our spiritual lives and is deplored by our God.”

Ingratitude is one’s disregard for what has been done for them or provided to them, coupled with a desire for something more. Though being unthankful is sinful on its own, sin also stems from ingratitude. Jesus speaks of the nine lepers’ omission to return and give thanks as a failure to give glory to God. Paul writes that the Gentiles “*did not glorify*” God, “*nor were thankful*” (Rom 1:21). This lack of recognition evolved into a “*debased mind*” which included sins such as homosexuality, covetousness, strife, deceit, and murder (Rom 1:26-32). In a similar vein, the aged apostle warns about “*perilous times*” in which, among other wickedness, men would be “*unthankful*” (2 Tim 3:1-2).

Ingratitude can lead to sinful desire. Why did Eve sin in the garden? She was convinced that something was missing – that there was something more out there for her to possess. This caused her to lose sight of the immense blessings she already possessed. We are warned against covetousness (Ex 20:17; Lk 12:15). This sin comes from a lack of contentment with one’s blessings. For instance, a spouse commits adultery because of a dissatisfaction with whom God has blessed them with (see Prov 5:18; Ecc 9:9).

These sobering thoughts reveal to us the value of thanksgiving. Joseph Scheumann correctly quips, “Thanksgiving is more than a day off. It is more than eating mashed potatoes and gravy, watching football, and taking a wonderful turkey-induced nap. Thanksgiving is a pervasive and essential concept in Scripture. And although it is good to set aside a Thursday each November to cultivate a heart of thanksgiving, the Scriptures have more to say about giving thanks than one day a year can handle.”

Thanksgiving replaces ingratitude. This change in mindset helps to replace the root causes of many of our sinful desires and actions. Certainly the believer is commanded to be thankful (Eph 5:20; 1 Ths 5:18). When Paul speaks of the necessity to put off sinful speech, he directs the disciple to put thanksgiving in its place (Eph 5:3-4). Scheumann says regarding this text, “Paul knows that we are always acting. We either act with sinful, thankless hearts which leads to foolish talk or crude jokes, or we act with thankful hearts and thereby please God with our speech.”

Thanksgiving is an evident characteristic of a life that is continually being renewed, or made to be more like Christ. A recognition of God’s greatness and acknowledgement of that truth by giving thanks offers us strength. Paul pairs spiritual strength with a thankful heart as part of our walk in the Lord (Col 1:10-12). He also connects being well-grounded with being thankful (Col 2:6-7). Without thanksgiving, our minds will be filled with anxiety (Phil 4:6). Scripture also teaches that being thankful is fuel for our worship. The directive to sing as an act of worship to God (Col 3:16) is found in the midst of two separate exhortations to give thanks (Col 3:15, 17). If our worship seems lifeless or stale, could it be because we are not as mindful of God’s blessings as we should be? We will only be able to “*make a joyful noise unto the LORD*” when we “*enter into His gates with thanksgiving*” (Psa 100:1, 4).