

## A Thankful Heart

See if you can relate to this: You're driving on a busy street at rush hour. The traffic is stacked across all three lanes, and a motorist is trying to enter the street from a parking lot on your right. You pause and let them in. They pull in front of you and disappear into traffic, with nary a glance in your direction.

Now, you might mutter a sarcastic "you're welcome." You might (but hopefully won't) even call them a word not fit for print. You might not say anything at all. But I suspect you'd be wondering, where's the acknowledgment for what I just did for you? Not that you were expecting a bouquet or anything...but where's the little wave? Where's my 'thank you?' You were absolutely under NO obligation to let them into traffic in the first place. You didn't need a gesture of thankfulness, but one certainly would have been nice!



I can't help but wonder if God doesn't feel the same way when we're not thankful. He is certainly under no obligation to do the things He does for us – almost ALL of which are more significant than letting us into traffic. Similarly, He certainly doesn't NEED the gesture. He is neither increased by our gratitude, or decreased by the lack of it.

Being thankful to God primarily benefits US. Psalm 92:1 says, "It is good to give thanks to the LORD." Here's why that's so:

1) Thankfulness keeps us humble. Giving thanks to the Lord regularly serves as a reminder that we are not as self-sufficient as we think. We're not responsible for the provisions necessary for existence – from the air that we breathe to the roofs over our heads, and everything in between. All these things have been given to us. If we understand that, we should be thankful.

2) Thankfulness keeps things in perspective. Structure dictates behavior. In functional families, children know who the parents are. In successful companies, employees recognize who's boss. The military has a chain of command. When any of these structures break down, chaos ensues. The same holds true in the divine relationship. Being thankful means we admit that there is a God, and that we know we are not Him.

3) Thankfulness reminds us that this is not all there is. This life is just a pale imitation of the eternal life which is to come. Being thankful to God keeps us in the mindset of Hebrews 11:13, that we are simply "strangers and pilgrims on the earth." In other words, if you think what you have now is good...just wait!

We're entering the season of celebration, of joy, and of (yes) thanksgiving. I urge you to keep in mind in the days ahead all the things God has done and will do for you. But most of all, I encourage you to look for ways to have a thankful heart.

Did you know that sermons are available online? Check out the church's website, click on the sermons tab, and pick out the sermon you missed, enjoyed, or want to share!

### Youth Happenings

It is Thanksgiving time, and the students and I have a lot to be thankful for. We have been studying the Holy Spirit on Sundays and the Ten Commandments on Wednesday's, and through November we will study more about worshiping God with joy and thanksgiving. The students are at an age where they can start appreciating this holiday for more than a bunch of food. Being thankful and counting your blessings is vital to a healthy relationship with The Lord and humble view of yourself.

Colossians 4:2-3 says "Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ..." I want to encourage you all to remain steadfast in your prayer, being thankful to God for all He has done for you. Count your blessings church, and pray that our students remember to thank our Lord for their blessings too. Happy November!



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"You are Loved"

# Tyland Baptist Church

[Tylandbaptist.com](http://Tylandbaptist.com)



## Lee's Music Notes

### SMARTEST PEOPLE IN THE WORLD

A doctor, a lawyer, a little boy and a priest were out for a Sunday afternoon flight on a small private plane. Suddenly, the plane developed engine trouble. In spite of the best efforts of the pilot, the plane started to go down. Finally, the pilot grabbed a parachute, yelled to the passengers that they had better jump, and then he bailed out. Unfortunately, there were only three parachutes remaining. The doctor grabbed one and said "I'm a doctor, I save lives, so I must live," and jumped out.

The lawyer then said, "I'm a lawyer and lawyers are the smartest people in the world. I deserve to live." He also grabbed a parachute and jumped.

The priest looked at the little boy and said, "My son, I've lived a long and full life. You are young and have your whole life ahead of you. Take the last parachute and live in peace."

The little boy handed the parachute back to the priest and said, "Not to worry, Father. The 'smartest man in the world' just took off with my back pack."

Daylight Savings Time—Nov 5<sup>th</sup>

Operation Christmas Child Packing Party—Nov 8<sup>th</sup>

Veteran's Day—Nov 11<sup>th</sup>

Thanksgiving Luncheon—Nov 12<sup>th</sup> (after a.m. services)

Shoebox Deadline—Nov 12<sup>th</sup>

Thanksgiving Day—Nov 23<sup>rd</sup>

#### Sunday:

Prayer Meeting—9:30 a.m.

Sunday School—9:40 a.m.

Morning Worship—10:40 a.m.

Evening Worship—6:00 p.m.

#### Wednesday:

Prayer Meeting—6:30 p.m.

RA's, GA's, & Youth—6:30 p.m.

Millennials—8:00 p.m.

As the holidays approach, please remember those in our community that don't have the funds for food, clothing, and who don't have any family. PATH is one of the various organizations that we support who provides essentials to the individuals in need in our community. You can bring donations of food, blankets, coats, etc. to the Mission board, or you may make a monetary donation.

Operation Christmas Child is underway! Please continue to bring your items/filled shoeboxes to the Welcome Center. There will be a packing party November 8<sup>th</sup>. The deadline for loose items is November 8<sup>th</sup>, and the deadline for FILLED shoeboxes is November 12<sup>th</sup>. The cost this year is \$9 per box.



Tyland Baptist Church's annual Thanksgiving Luncheon will be November 12<sup>th</sup> after the morning services. There is a sign up sheet for food available at the Welcome Center. Please feel free to bring your family, friends, and neighbors! Let's enjoy a wonderful food fellowship together as God's children.

*Thank you, veterans, for your service and your sacrifice.*

## The Corner Shelf

A Heart Like His by Beth Moore

Have you ever noticed the truth in the statement, "God is seldom in a hurry but He is never late?" Join Beth Moore as she takes you full circle in the life of David, relating God's timing in His direction, deliverance, and dedication to drawing David closer to Himself. Moore follows up with thought provoking review questions at the end of the book for each chapter. This book would be great for extra reading and is available for check out in our church library.

Office: 903.592.6364

Pastor Cell: 903.521.2067

Pastor: David@tylandbaptist.com

Music: Lee@tylandbaptist.com

Office: Robyn@tylandbaptist.com

#### Deacons:

Charlie Stovall, (Chair) 903.539.8526

Joe Mekalip 903.593.2735

John Reed 903.283.2172