

THE HAVEN NEWSLETTER

Thanksgiving Every Day!

Living in light of what the Father has done for us.



One of my other favorite old movies is Shenandoah, starring Jimmy Stewart. Set in the midst of the Civil War, Stewart portrays a self-made man whose prayers at supper consist of him bragging about how he did everything in the first place and if it wasn't for him none of the food would be there. Over the course of the movie several of his children are killed and one is mistakenly captured and sent away as a POW. By the end of the movie Stewart starts his dinner prayer with his remaining children and chokes it off in the midst. He was no longer in charge, his braggadocio was

emptied by life and reality. The last scene is set in church, which he had done before merely to keep a promise to his believing wife (deceased before the war). In the midst of the service the son who has been a POW comes walking into the service and the entire congregation breaks out in the Doxology - "Praise God from whom all blessings flow!" The father starts singing - He is no longer a self made man - but now thanks God for his son.

Even a cursory glance through a Bible concordance gives a picture of how thankfulness is a

Being thankful is not about mere words, every parent knows that. Being thankful in the Christian context is about a way of living life, always mindful of the incredible goodness of the Lord; and responding in the only reasonable manner - sheer gratitude. There is nothing we have that was not given to us in some ultimate way. Even the joys, warts and tragedies of our lives are not out of the Lord's personal control. Therefore we come to rejoice even through our struggles and failures, for we know that the Father has purpose even in those things that we dread. That is why we praise Him - there is no one else even close..

constant theme. The Psalms have many examples such as 92:1 "It is good to give thanks to the Lord and to sing praises to your name oh most High". We are told to give thanks for what God has done for us - his grace, his mercy, his forgiveness, his blessing and on and on. (Ps 26:7, Isa 12:1, Rom 6:17, etc) Psalm 95 has an explicit layout of the sovereignty of God - "Let us come before his presence with Thanksgiving, let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms. For the Lord is a great God and a great King above all gods, in whose hand are the depths of the earth, the peaks of the mountains are his

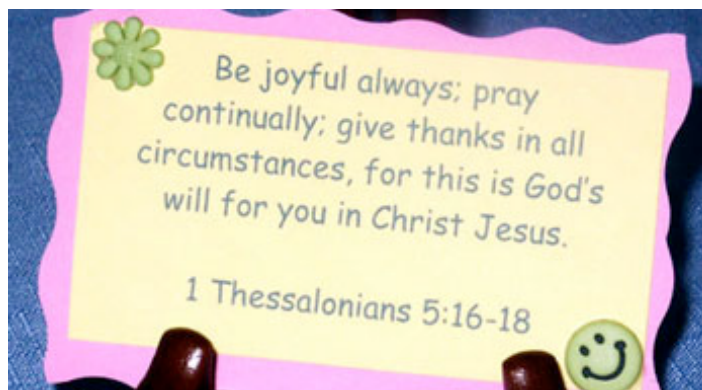
also. The sea is his for it was he who made it and his hands formed the dry land". It can hardly be clearer - God made this world and he is in control. The intended result is thankfulness for all that one has. However there is a break between the intended rational response (being thankful) and the way we usually live (I want and "deserve More, More, More!") If we as God's people are not thankful for what we have - why should pagans be thankful? We Americans have less to complain about than any people that has ever lived, but you would hardly know it. Madison Ave has worked its magic into our souls and we are not content, therefore we do not give thanks. And if we are not giving thanks (BTW - actually meaning it too!) than our worship is shallow on its best days. We seem more inclined as American Christians to be thankful only when all is going our way.

The Apostle Paul had interesting words to say at the end of his life. In Philippians 4

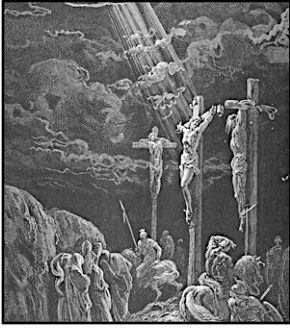
(written while he was in prison perhaps awaiting execution) he says "Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both have having abundance and suffering need - I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." The context of this passage is filled with admonitions to rejoice and to be thankful. Prison walls did not deny for Paul that the Lord was in charge, and that the Lord was sufficient for every need. And that thanks and rejoicing were the appropriate response.

This same Paul commends in Romans 16 many who helped and blessed him and his fellow missionaries. I have done this quietly before and now I want to do this loudly - Many of you who receive this newsletter have been faithful givers and prayers - Our

thanks to God for all of you. We ask our Father that he will bless you for your faithfulness and your kindness to us. We also want to especially thank many, many people who have graciously helped us in our move and the acquisition of our new home. From moving, to paying for supplies, to working to build out the basement so the kids could have their own room, yall have done so much for us. We thank the Lord for Wayne and Susan, Hal and Evelyn, Tom, Pat and Barb, Duane and Charlene, Loretta, Jim, Scott, Jeff, Linda, Manny and Angie, Matt and Julie, Craig, Brett, Mike, Janelle, Mike and Heidi, Glen and Tonia, John and JoAnn, Dave, Rod, Connie, Lowell, Frank, Paul, Bill and Michelle, Larry, David, and special thanks to Kris and Patty and Don and Kitty, who gave so much of their money and time. We are crushed by the goodness of the Lord - that all of yall would help sinners/screwups like us is amazing in so many ways. Thanks be to our Father who blesses us with so much, for all that he has provided. Especially every one of you.



PRAYER REQUESTS



This was not the end... but the beginning of hope and faith and love in a whole new life.

1) Please pray once more for our eldest son Scott - since the last letter and against all that he had been doing - he has walked away from the Lord dramatically. And also continue to pray that Jonathan will be under control especially for Terri. Pray for Gabe and Joe as they graduate HS and go off to Grace University this coming fall.

2) We ask that yall would continually lift up marriages of many who have been destroyed by sin and cults. Some are doing better - Don and Peggy praise the Lord. Others are still struggling so pray for Bruce, Diane, Mike, Cheryl. Brad, Jeannette, Michael, Pam and many others.

3) Pray for those who are chronically ill - such as my dear wife Terri, and our friends Rebekah, Sherri, Liz, Julie, Josh and others. I have no pain like they do but I have some silly condition which is busy destroying all my hair cells. So I will be looking even more strange in the near future. Kind of ironic for a former hippy wannabe huh? Oh well...

4) Please continue to pray for our soldiers at war. The Lord is doing some amazing things with the troops - many are coming to Him. Lift them up as often as you can. In the same vein lift up our police and firefighters for the very same reasons.

5) Keep praying for Christians around the world who live in cultures where they are despised, like China, Pakistan, the Sudan and elsewhere. Check out the Voice of the Martyrs website for specific examples.

6) We have had wonderful ministry opportunities over the past several months. We have had many Conversation and Cuisine dinners and have more to come. I am talking to a confused Mormon and a Scientologist through emails and that is going well in some ways. As always pray for those we have mentioned in the past - Good ground members Bruce, William and others. JW's like Bruce and Bianca, Mormons all over the place. New agers like Tim, Zach, Denver, Cathy, Fausto, Jason and others.

7) Continue to pray for the staff and interns at Haven Ministry. That the Lord would bless the ministry's efforts and many would come to the Lord through the faithfulness of our people.

8) Pray for our support situation. We are at the lowest average we have had in over six years. We thank our Lord for what we have and ask him to raise us others who will see the work and want to have a share in yet.

calender:

June 3 - Peoples Fair - Downtown Denver

June 9 - Conversation and Cuisine - Is there truth? Littleton, CO

June 10 - Conversation and Cuisine - The Da Vinci Code - Parker, CO

June 16 - Conversation and Cuisine - Why the Bible? Lakewood, CO

June 18 - The Da Vinci Code, Gnosticism and the Real Jesus - Elk Creek Church, Bailey, CO

June 25 - Peter and The Wolves: Being a Discerning Shopper in the Spiritual Marketplace - Elk Creek Church, Bailey, CO

June 6,13,20,27. Bible Study on 2nd Corinthians - Our house, Aurora, CO

July 2 - The Da Vinci Code, Gnosticism and the Real Jesus - Front Range Evangelical Free Church, Littleton, CO.

July 16 - Highland Park Evangelical Free Church, Columbus, NE Morning and Evening services.

July 20-22 - "No Other Gods" Conference on Cults and World Religions. Plenary and seminar. Lancaster, PA

July 23 - Tiffany Assembly of God, Tiffany, KS

July 26 - Hastings Evangelical Free Church, Hastings, NE

July 30 - Stockham Community Church, Stockham, NE - Morning Service

Aurora Evangelical Free Church - Aurora, NE - Evening Service

July 4,11, - Bible Study on 2nd Corinthians - Our house, Aurora, CO

August 13 - Sierra Community Church, S. Lake Tahoe, CA

August 20 - Monroe Evangelical Free Church, Phillips, NE - Morning Service

Pleasant View Bible Church, Aurora, NE - Evening Service

August 28-30 - World Religions Course at YWAM Base in Arvada, CO

As always check the website www.havenministries.com for future additions to the speaking and ministry schedule.

Non - Prophet Update

Paul teaches us in 2nd Corinthians 2:17 that there were many who were selling the Gospel, and diluting it to sell. Those snake oil salesman had nothing on the movers and shakers on TV today! Paul commends the people to look for sincerity - he himself had not taken a dime from that church, even though he was the founding pastor. One good test of whether the leader is a shepherd or a Wolf can be found right there - is this person living a life style that rock stars are jealous of? Just how many Lear Jets does the Pastor need??? That is why TBN and Daystar and all the wanna-bees are "peddlers" (diluters in the original greek) They dilute the message to make it sellable- The only "Best Life Now" that they are interested in is their own. Don't fall for it - look for a sincere heart that is shown by biblical teaching and a biblical life that models what you see in Jesus.

MAIL UPDATE:

Please notice our new address and even more importantly, please let us know if you have moved. It is expensive to hunt you and track you down - but we have the dogs and the extra men if we need it!

Just kidding - sort of...?

Also if you want to switch from old fashioned mail to email versions of the newsletters - let us know that as well.

Haven Ministries - Love at the End of the Rainbow!

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