

in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. **Philippians 4:6**

## And Be Thankful

### Store In My Heart

#### 1Kings 12:16

And when all Israel saw that the king did not listen to them, the people answered the king, "What portion do we have in David? We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse. To your tents, O Israel! Look now to your own house, David." So Israel went to their tents.

1Kings continues the story of David's reign as king over all Israel. We see how Solomon received the kingdom and then how the nation was divided with a majority of the tribes rejecting Solomon's successor. The remainder of this record tells of the troubles and trials of the two nations. Because of their wickedness God sent Elijah to warn Israel to return. 1Kings contains the record of most of Elijah's work as a prophet of God.

Greatest of all the lessons to learn from Israel and Judah is the need to give full attention to God's commands.

### Kent Heaton

To be thankful for something is to express gratitude from a heart that realizes the value of that which is well done. When we think of that which is well done we understand that an action was taken that allowed us to receive a gracious blessing from another. This can be a direct or indirect response. Thanksgiving is not an emotion that serves only as a veneer for others to see but a deep feeling of debt for what someone has done for us.

Our country is at war and our thanksgiving to those who put themselves in harms way realizes the depth of sacrifice they are willing to give. The reasons are not found in the politics of a war but that young men and women are willing to die for their country. This spirit of sacrifice is found in every day life when others put themselves in peril to save others. *"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends"* (**John 15:13**).

How can one repay the debt of sacrifice? There are no deeds that can be done nor words found that can satisfy the giving of life for another. Beyond this measure is to understand how man can seek to satisfy the debt of one who is God who came to our world, embodied the flesh in every fashion and accept death for the penalty of sin. Can man understand that? Will man grasp the magnitude of such love? How is man to give homage to the love of God through Jesus Christ His son? *"Let the peace of Christ rule in your*



## Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about the Lord's Kingdom.

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*hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful" (Colossians 3:15).*

The peace of Christ is the tranquility of spirit that sees man's depravation and God's glory on the bloody cross of Calvary. *"He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him" (2Corinthians 5:21).* The peace of Christ is our rule of heart. Thanksgiving springs from hearts overflowing with gratitude for the enormity of God's love for worthless man. Jesus Christ became **MY** sin and bore **MY** sin on a bloody cross. I could not bring righteousness before the throne of the Almighty through my own works or goodness or pleading or bloody sacrifices of goats and calves (**Hebrews 10:4**). It took the Son of God - willing to die for me - to bear my sin on a cross - to bring peace between my God and I.

## For Our Information

Joyce Venable has been doing better this week.

Paula Laubach is doing much better. Her physical therapy is going well also.

The Simpson family is out of town this weekend.

Dan & JoBeth will be in Texas Monday & Tuesday.

Tonight we start our study in 1Samuel 4:5 at 5 pm.

Wednesday we will begin our study in 2Corinthians 8:16.

Pray for safety, courage & healing.

*"And be thankful" the text reads (Colossians 3:15).* How simple. How complete. Three words fill the expanse of heaven and earth declaring the debt that can never be paid but measured by the beating of my heart in thanksgiving. The peace of Christ is on my lips in praise to His great love. His peace fills my heart with humility that He died for me - for me! My hands are lifted above in thanksgiving for the hands that were nailed to what should have been my cross.

*"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life . But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God" (John 3:16,21).* To be thankful to God is to be obedient to God. Letting the peace of Christ rule in our hearts finds itself in doing the will of the father. *"Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say. ... If you love Me, you will keep My commandments" (John 6:46; 14:15).* Be thankful.

(My sister, who introduced me to my wife and changed my life, is but one of several for whom I could never be thankful enough. But my gratitude for what she has done pales in comparison to the thankfulness I need to express to God and His Son who provided the means for my salvation. Always be thankful. DLH)



We seek only to serve God according to His Will!