



The Voice Of Truth

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Hillcrest church of Christ

1621 Hillcrest Drive
Green Bay, WI 54313
(920) 499-5677

www.hillcrestchurchofchrist.com

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“I Will Give Thanks unto Thee For Ever”

By Jimmy Pettigrew

"To the end that my glory may sing praise to thee, and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks unto thee for ever," Psalm 30:12.

"Give thanks unto the Lord, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the people," 1 Chronicles 16:8.

"That I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all thy Wondrous works," Psalm 26:7.

"So we thy people and sheep of thy pasture will give thee thanks for ever: we will shew forth thy praise to all generations," Psalm 79:13.

"Praise ye the Lord. O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth forever," Psalm 106:1.

"Surely the righteous shall give thanks unto thy name: the upright shall dwell in thy presence," Psalm 140:13.

As a child of God, a saint, one that is separated, set apart and sanctified, one that has been called out of darkness and into His marvelous light, ours is that of giving of thanks. Surely we do give thanks to God for all the good things He has given to us in such abundance!

The word thanks means give freely. It simply means that we offer gratitude, thankfulness.

"Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ," Ephesians 5:20.

"In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you," 1 Thessalonians 5:18.

This is something that the child of God is to abound in as long as he lives! One characteristic of the unbelieving world is ingratitude (**Romans 1:21**). Paul urged the Philippian saints to give thanks in everything (**Philippians 4:6**). For what should we be grateful?

1. God's Love (John 3:16). We love God because we are loved of God (**1 John 4:10, 19**).

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us," Romans 5:8.

"Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift," 2 Corinthians 9:15.

God loved, and God gave. God gave to the world the priceless gift of His only begotten Son (**1 John 4:9**). We thank you God for your love for it never faileth!

2. Jesus Left Heaven (John 3:13; 6:51). He left a place whose builder and maker is God (**Hebrews 11:10**). He left a place of glory and honor (**John 17:5**). He left a place of equality (**Philippians 2:6-7**). He left a place

with no death, sorrow, crying or pain (**Revelation 21:4**). A far better place (**Philippians 1:23**). A place of security, joy, peace, where no darkness exists; a place void of sin and sinners. He left all for us! He left heaven for me, as worthless, sinful and undeserving as I am. We thank Jesus Christ for leaving heaven for us!

3). For the Word of God (2 Peter 1:3). God has been so gracious toward us in revealing His will to us in the scriptures. We have an opportunity to study, learn and live in harmony with divine precepts (**2 Timothy 2:15**). We are saved by the word (**James 1:21**). We, today, live by every word proceeding from God and we are made clean thereby (**John 15:3**). God's word is man's hope against sin (**Psalms 119:11**). God's word is the truth whereby man may be freed from sin (**John 8:32**). The truth of God's word is the means whereby we obtain the purification of the soul (**1 Peter 1:22-23**). God's word has the power to produce new life (**James 1:18**). It is able to build us up and give us an inheritance (**Acts 20:32**). We thank God for His living and powerful word (**Hebrews 4:12**).

We can truly think of many other things for which we should be grateful. Let us always give thanks and praise God for all He does for us!

What Is A Christian?

Jimmy Pettigrew

Those who live for the Lord are called by many different terms in the scriptures: brethren, saints, disciples, children of God, etc. Perhaps no term stands out more than the name "**Christian**". We find this term in the scriptures three times: **Acts 11:26**, **Acts 26:28**, **1 Peter 4:16**. This term denotes one who is "of Christ" or "belongs to Christ".

It is unfortunately true that the term "Christian" means different things to different people. A Christian is not necessarily a good person, although that is the concept that many people have. A religious person is not necessarily a Christian. Many gross and ungodly acts have been done in the name of religion, but these were not Christian acts. Furthermore, everyone who declares himself to be a Christian is not necessarily one. Therefore, "**WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN?**"

1. A Christian is a believer in Christ (John 8:24).
2. A Christian is one whose life harmonizes with the life and teachings of Jesus Christ (John 8:12; 2 John 9).
3. A Christian is one that repents of his sins (Luke 13:3, 5; Acts 3:19).
4. One cannot become a Christian without having his sins forgiven, by baptism (Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16).
5. A Christian is a disciple (learner) of Christ (Acts 11:26).
6. A Christian is God's obedient child (1 Peter 1:13-16).
7. A Christian is Holy (1 Peter 1:16).
8. A Christian is God's chosen child (1 Peter 1:1-2).
9. A Christian is a redeemed one (1 Peter 1:18-19).
10. A Christian is one whose life is a sermon (1 Peter 2:11).
11. A Christian is one who prays (1 Peter 3:12).
12. A Christian is one who resists the Devil (1 Peter 5:8-9).
13. A Christian is a good steward (1 Peter 4:10).
14. A Christian is one who is upright (Psalm 106:3).
15. A Christian is one who fears God (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14).
16. A Christian is one who hates sin (Psalm 1:1).

What is a Christian? He lives by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God! (**Matthew 4:4**).

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear and Learn - Rom. 10:17; John 6:45; 17:3

Believe - Heb. 11:6; John 6:29; 8:24

Repent - Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19; 17:30

Confess the Lord - Matt. 10:32-33; Rom. 10:9-10

Be Baptized - Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27; 1 Pet. 3:21

Continue in the Apostles' Teaching - Acts 2:42; 2 Tim. 3:14-17