

Thankful Heart

BY
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SINNER:

YOU HAVE MUCH TO BE THANKFUL FOR!

Every unsaved person who reads these words bow this moment and thank God you are ALIVE! If God had not prevented it, the devil would have caused you to fall and break your neck when you got out of bed this morning—and you would have been in hell before breakfast!

If you do not already know it, please realize NOW that the devil is determined to damn you if he can. And had it not been for the mercy, goodness, and longsuffering of God, the devil would already have killed you—and you would be burning in hell, not reading this little booklet.

“It is appointed unto men once to DIE, but after this the JUDGMENT” (Heb. 9:27).

“. . . THERE IS *BUT* A STEP BETWEEN ME (and that means YOU as well as ME) and DEATH!” (I Samuel 20:3).

ONE STEP:

If you have LONG LEGS, you are about *thirty-six inches from hell*; if you have *short* legs you are only about *thirty inches* from hell! That is SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT, dear unsaved friend!

Since man is only one step from death, if I—or you—should take the wrong step, we would step right into the jaws of DEATH!

All *believers*—and by that I mean *Christians, saved people, born again people, people who have trusted Jesus*—HAVE THIS ASSURANCE: *“The steps of a good man (saved man) are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in His way”* (Psalm 37:23).

The Christian also has this wonderful promise: *“The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear Him, AND DELIVERETH THEM”* (Psalm 34:7).

BUT—

THE POOR SINNER cannot claim these promises.

Where does the sinner walk? Who leads the sinner?

Speaking to Christians, Paul said:

“And you hath He quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins:

“WHEREIN IN TIME PAST YE WALKED *ACCORDING TO THE COUSE OF THIS WORLD*, ACCORDING TO THE PRINCE OF THE POWER OF THE AIR, (the prince of the power of the air is the devil), THE SPIRIT THAT NOW WORKETH IN THE CHILDREN OF DISOBEDIENCE:

“Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past (that is, before we were saved) in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; AND WERE BY NATURE THE CHILDREN OF WRATH (children of the devil), EVEN AS OTHERS” (Ephesians 2:1-3).

So—We see that THE SINNER walks “according to the course of this world”—and the course (or path) the world walks in is EXTREMELY DANGEROUS.

The DEVIL is on the trail of every person. Peter warns: “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, AS A ROARING LION, walketh about, *seeking WHOM* (that takes in you) *he may devour*” (I Peter 5:8).

Dear sinner, did you know that you are being followed by a “roaring lion”? Would you leave your house if you knew there was a lion in your yard?

NO!

Yet every time you take a step the *devil*, “*as a roaring lion*,” is following you, hoping you will take the wrong step and he can *devour* you.

REMEMBER—there is but a STEP between you and death (I Samuel 20:3).

WE ARE ALL TRAVELING; DAY BY DAY WE JOURNEY TOWARD OUR ETERNAL DESTINY.

THERE ARE ONLY TWO PLACES:

HEAVEN AND HELL.

THERE ARE ONLY TWO WAYS:

THE WAY TO HEAVEN

THE WAY TO HELL

If you are not saved you are on the road to hell, and every step takes you a little closer to the fires of hell.

“There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the WAYS OF DEATH” (Proverbs 16:25).

Man’s way leads to eternal destruction. GOD’S way leads to life eternal.

“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for WIDE is the gate, and BROAD is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat” (Matthew 7:13).

“The wicked (sinners) shall be turned into HELL . . .” (Psalm 9:17).

“He that soweth to his flesh shall . . . reap corruption . . .” (Galatians 6:8).

There was a man in the Bible who had everything he wanted; he “sowed to the flesh,” he had no time for God—but “it came to pass . . . the rich man also died . . . AND IN HELL HE LIFT UP HIS EYES, BEING IN TORMENTS And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am TORMENTED in this flame” (Luke 16:22-24).

He had no time for God while he was here on earth; but the moment he died and opened his eyes in hell, he began to call on God—but it was too late! No doubt while he lived he had everything money could buy, but all his riches could not buy one drop of water to cool his tongue in hell!

If *you*, dear reader, live for the flesh, if you sow to the flesh, *get ready*—a river of corruption awaits you at death!—and maybe a little corruption before you die: “. . . the way of transgressors is hard!” (Proverbs 13:15).

You had better call on God NOW; *it will be TOO LATE after you die!*

LISTEN TO THIS SOLEMN WARNING

“Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; but ye have set at nought all my counsel (please do not set at nought the counsel of this message; God has thrown this little booklet between you and hell . . . please do not ignore its message), and would none of my reproof:

“I also will LAUGH at your CALAMITY; I WILL MOCK when your FEAR COMETH; when your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind (TORNADO); when distress and anguish cometh upon you.

“THEN shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; (THEN) they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me!

“For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord: They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof.

“THEREFORE SHALL THEY EAT OF THE FRUIT OF THEIR OWN WAY”
(Proverbs 1:24-31).

What a horrible thing to think about! GOD LAUGHING when destruction like a tornado strikes the wicked!

BUT LISTEN—

What a horrible thing it is to *reject Jesus* after all He suffered that we might be saved!

When I read the Bible account of how Jesus suffered and died for sinners, I do not have any trouble believing in a burning hell.

WILL GOD LAUGH IN YOUR FACE?

—OR WILL YOU SEE HIS SMILING FACE BECAUSE YOU TRUSTED JESUS AS YOUR SAVIOUR?

Will you hear Him say, “*I never knew you: DEPART FROM ME, ye that work iniquity?*” (Matthew 7:23).

—OR WILL YOU HEAR HIM SAY, “*Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord?*” (Matthew 25:21.)
You will hear one or the other.

If you are not saved, *THANK GOD NOW THAT YOU ARE ALIVE AND HAVE ONE MORE OPPORTUNITY TO BE SAVED.*

DO NOT PUT OFF SALVATION!

“ . . . NOW is the accepted time; behold, NOW is the day of salvation” (II Corinthians 6:2).

“*Boast not thyself of TO MORROW; for thou KNOWEST NOT what a day may bring forth*” (Proverbs 27:1).

The devil is too smart to ask you to SIGN A CONTRACT NEVER TO BE SAVED. The devil suggests that you *wait* until TOMORROW—or some other time—when you are sure you are “ready” to be saved, or when you are sure you can live as a Christian should. If you listen to the devil, GET SET! You will certainly burn in hell! *One day at a time* is all the devil asks of YOU. If he can get you to lay this message aside and PUT OFF SALVATION, he knows you can go to hell BEFORE TOMORROW.

YOU CAN BE SAVED *this very moment*. It matters not where you are—at home, at your place of business, sitting in your automobile waiting for someone to return from shopping, sitting on a bench in the park, riding on a bus, or flying in an airplane—you *can be saved this moment*.

JESUS SAID:

“ . . . him (ALL) that cometh to me I WILL IN NO WISE CAST OUT” (John 6:37).

“He that BELIEVETH ON HIM (the Son of God) is not condemned: but he that BELIEVETH NOT IS CONDEMNED ALREADY, because he HATH NOT BELIEVED IN THE NAME OF THE ONLY BEGOTTEN SON OF GOD” (John 3:18).

“Verily, verily, I say unto YOU, He that heareth my word, and believeth on Him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and SHALL NOT COME INTO CONDEMNATION; but is passed from death unto life” (John 5:24).

“Speaking of Jesus, John the Baptist said:

“He came unto His own, and His own received Him not. But as many as RECEIVED Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, EVEN TO THEM THAT BELIVETH ON HIS NAME” (John 1:11, 12).

Paul tells us:

“For by GRACE ARE YE SAVED through *faith*; AND THAT NOT OF YOURSELVES: it is the GIFT OF GOD: not of works, lest nay man should boast” (Ephesians 2:8, 9).

GOD SAVES US BY *GRACE*.

GRACE BECOMES OURS BY *FAITH*.

FAITH TO ACCEPT God's saving grace becomes ours BY HEARING THE WORD OF GOD:

“So then *faith cometh by hearing*, and hearing by the Word of God” (Romans 10:17).

HEED GOD'S WORD TODAY!

CHRISTIAN:

“Count your many blessings, name them ONE by ONE, and it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.”

As a believer I say with Paul: “Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable Gift” (II Corinthians 9:15).

WHY did God so love sinners that He gave His only begotten Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, that a poor miserable soul such as I could be saved simply by *receiving* THE GIFT of God, the Lord Jesus?

I will never know why.

But I DO KNOW JESUS! And since I heard the Gospel of God's grace and received Jesus by faith, and He saved my soul, I have stopped asking WHY—and I never cease to give thanks that God did love me so much.

Before I was saved, I was “without strength . . . ungodly”—(and all sinners are in the same boat). “. . . we were . . . sinners . . . we were enemies . . .” When we were all this —AND MORE— “we were RECONCILED to God by the death of His Son” (Romans 5:6-10).

Now we “who sometimes were far off *are made nigh by the blood of Christ*” (Ephesians 2:13).

As a Christian I HAVE SO MUCH to be thankful for—and since God is no respecter of persons (Romans 2:11), *every* Christian has as much to be thankful for as I do.

I THANK GOD, first and foremost, for loving me and allowing Jesus to come into the world and die for me.

ONLY THE GRACE OF GOD made it possible for Jesus to come into the world and take the sinner's place:

“But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that He *by the GRACE OF GOD* should taste death for every man” (Hebrews 2:9).

I was a sinner, strengthless, ungodly, God's enemy, without hope, blinded by sin and the devil, led around by lust and the things of the world.

BUT IN SPITE OF IT ALL—God having a perfect right to let me die and go to hell—God allowed Jesus to come into the world and *take my place . . . and taste death for me!*

I can never thank God enough for loving me while I was so unlovely and sending Jesus to save me when He should have cast me into hell!

Truly, we who are Christians “. . . JOY IN GOD through our Lord Jesus Christ . . .” (Romans 5:11).

Then—I THANK THE LORD JESUS CHRIST for coming into the world and dying for me.

Jesus came willingly! He *died* willingly! He said, “. . . I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself . . .” (John 10:17, 18).

If Jesus had said, “Father, I refuse to drink this bitter cup,” instead of what He did say—“If it be possible, let this cup pass from me: NEVERTHELESS *not as I will, but as thou wilt*” (Matthew 26:39)—if He had refused, we would all be going to hell!

But He said instead, “Father, if there is no way of saving them (you, me, and all poor sinners) except I drink the cup of sin . . . I will drink it”—and He did! He drank the cup to the last bitter dregs! How I thank Him for drinking the cup for me.

“For He (God) hath made Him (*Jesus*) to be sin for us (you and me), who knew no sin (Jesus never sinned in any way); that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him” (II Corinthians 5:21).

“Who (Jesus His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree (cross), that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye are healed” (I Peter 2:24).

Think of it! Praise God for it! Be thankful, and worship God for it! But the finite mind of man will never understand how it could be—*Jesus*, who did no sin, knew no sin, *the sinless One*, MADE SIN FOR ME! . . . Yes, ME! AND I DESERVE HELL!

Let me say a little prayer here:

*“Thank you, Jesus, for loving me so much;
thank you for taking my place!
THANK YOU, JESUS, for saving my poor lost soul!”*

Next,

*I THANK THE HOLY SPIRIT for coming to me again, and again, and again,
when I would hear His call but refuse to heed it.*

You know, after the Holy Spirit called me one time and I turned Him away, He was not duty-bound to come again. But I am so thankful He did! He knocked at the door of my sinful heart many times before I let Him in. I am so thankful He returned again, and again, and again. If He had not, I would be in hell today.

Jesus said, “No man come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up . . .” (John 6:44).

The Father, through the Holy Spirit, drew me to Jesus—and if He had treated me as I treated Him when He first came to knock on the door of my heart, I would be in hell today.

He tenderly called me over, and over, and over again—and thank God, one night I responded to His call and trusted Jesus as my Saviour. How thankful I am!

*I also thank the Holy Spirit, not only for calling me,
but for coming into my heart to abide (Romans 8:9).*

I thank Him for *leading* me (Romans 8:14), for giving me the *ASSURANCE* for *SEALING ME UNTIL THE DAY OF REDEMPTION* (Ephesians 4:30).

And I thank this blessed Comforter for teaching me the truths of God's Word (John 14:26).

Next,

*I thank God for HIS WORD.
I am so thankful that the night I went to church and was saved,
the minister PREACHED THE WORD OF GOD!*

Jesus said: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, *He that beareth my Word* (notice, *THE WORD*—not an essay or a book report, but *THE WORD*), *and believeth on Him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life*" (John 5:24).

Paul tells us: "For by grace are ye saved *through FAITH*; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8).

"*FAITH* cometh by *bearing*, and hearing *BY THE WORD OF GOD*" (Romans 10:17).

So, you see, if the minister had not preached *the Word* that night, I would not have been saved. I shall never cease to be thankful for God's holy Word.

The Word is my MILK (I Peter 2:2).

The Word is my MEAT (I Cor. 3:2; Hebrews 5:14).

The Word is my WATER (John 4:14; Eph. 5:26).

The Word is my BREAD (John 6:48 with John 1:1, 14; Job 23:12).

The Word is A LAMP TO MY FEET and A LIGHT TO MY PATHWAY (Psalm 119:105).

*I thank God for preserving THE WORD and not allowing
the devil, liberals, and modernists to destroy it.*

The Word of God cannot be destroyed: "FOR EVER, O LORD, THY WORD IS SETTLED IN HEAVEN!" (Psalm 119:89). Hallelujah!!!

Also,

*I THANK GOD FOR CHRISTIAN FRIENDS. Wherever I go I find people
who are saved and love Jesus. All born again believers are my brothers and sisters in Christ,
and it is so wonderful to be a member of God's family!*

"For as the body is ONE, and hath many members, and all the members of that ONE body, being man ARE ONE BODY: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit" (I Cor. 12:12, 13).

True believers love one another: "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because *we love the brethren*" (I John 3:14).

People who love one another *pray* for each other, *help* each other when hard days come, *bear* one another's burdens.

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!” (Psalm 133:1).

Yes, I THANK GOD for my Christian friends, and I want to be a friend to all believers at all times. I want to weep with those who weep, help to bear the burdens of those who are burdened, and rejoice with those who rejoice.

WITH ALL MY HEART

let me again give thanks to *God* for loving me, to *Jesus* for dying for me, and to the *Holy Spirit* for continuing to call me after I turned Him away so many times. I give thanks for *the precious Word of God* and *for every dear believer* who has prayed for me and helped me in any way these many, many years that I have been saved. I have had the opportunity of ministering to millions because of the dear Christians who have prayed for me and supported me with their love gifts.

I have tried to be a faithful and true minister of the Gospel—but I AM WHAT I AM BY THE GRACE OF GOD. THANKS BE UNTO GOD!

CHRISTIAN:

“It is a GOOD THING to GIVE THANKS unto the Lord, and to sing praises . . .” (Psalm 92:1).

“In EVERY THING GIVE THANKS: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you” (I Thessalonians 5:18).

A WORD TO THE UNTHANKFUL

If you are unthankful, you are *unhappy*—and you are either unsaved or *backslidden*. The most miserable person on earth is a backslidden person. A backslider is one who has been born again but has drifted away from the Lord—and such a person cannot enjoy anything! A *sinner* does enjoy sin, though only *for a season*; but a poor backslider cannot enjoy sin. WHY? Because a person who has been born again knows the joy of living for Jesus, and a person who has known the joy of serving Jesus can never be happy again in sin.

Peter backslid (Luke 22:54-62). He *“followed afar off,”* he *denied* the Lord, he fellowshiped with the Lord's enemies—and *he was miserable*: “And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered THE WORD OF THE LORD, how He had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And Peter went out, and *WEPT BITTERLY*” (Luke 22:61, 62).

If you are not thankful and happy, CHECK UP, dear soul, and see if you have drifted away from the Lord. Maybe you have stopped reading your Bible or maybe you don't pray as you once did. Have you been unfaithful in attending church and prayer meeting? Have you stopped giving to the work of the Lord?

All these things will rob you of your spiritual birthright—*abundant life*. That is what Jesus came to give every believer. He said: “. . . I am come that they might have *life*, and that they might have it more *abundantly*” (John 10:10).

If you have grown cold and indifferent, if you are living in a backslidden state, *confess to Jesus* that you have sinned—and He will forgive you:

“If we *confess* our sins, He is *faithful and just to forgive us our sins*, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (I John 1:9).

“My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye SIN NOT. (God does not want His little children to sin; but if we do, God does not kick us out and give us over to the devil to damn!) And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, JESUS CHRIST the righteous: And He is the propitiation for our sins: and not for our’s only, but also for the sins of the whole world” (I John 2:1, 2).

God is ready and willing to forgive you, dear backslider, if you will only confess your sins to Him. I warn you—if you are backslidden, you will never have peace or happiness until you repent of your backsliding and come back to Jesus. DO IT NOW.

If you are saved, but you are not fully surrendered to the Lord, SURRENDER ALL THIS MOMENT!

If you are a CHURCH MEMBER, you have professed religion, but you are unhappy and unthankful, and you do not know exactly why—MAYBE YOU HAVE NEVER BEEN SAVED. There are thousands in the churches today who have been baptized but who are not saved! They made a profession of religion, but they did not receive Jesus by faith. YOU MAY BE ONE OF THAT GROUP. You can know—but how?

If you are born again, saved by God’s grace, you have the witness of the Holy Spirit in your heart: “The Spirit (Himself) beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God” (Romans 8:16). If you do not have the witness of the Spirit, you are lost: “. . . If any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His” (Romans 8:9).

If you are born again, you have PEACE WITH GOD: “Therefore being justified by faith, WE HAVE PEACE WITH GOD through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 5:1).

If it frightens you to think of standing before God, you are not saved. Christians do not *long* to die, BUT CHRISTIANS ARE NOT AFRAID TO DIE: “THERE IS NO FEAR IN LOVE; but PERFECT LOVE CASTETH OUT FEAR; because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love” (I John 4:18).

“And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him. For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. *Beloved, if our heart condemn us NOT, THEN WE HAVE CONFIDENCE TOWARD GOD*” (I John 3:19-21).

IF YOU DO NOT KNOW *that you are saved* as positively as you know you are breathing and as surely as you know your heart is beating, MY ADVICE TO YOU IS REPENT. CALL ON JESUS NAME, AND TRUST JESUS AS YOUR SAVIOUR. It is impossible to be saved and not know it:

“He that hath the Son HATH LIFE; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may KNOW that ye HAVE ETERNAL LIFE . . .” (I John 5:12, 13).

IF YOU ARE NOT SAVED—

“BELIEVE on the Lord Jesus Christ, and THOU SHALT BE SAVED . . .” (Acts 16:31).

“AS MANY AS RECEIVED HIM, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name” (John 1:12).

“Whosoever shall CALL upon the name of the Lord SHALL BE SAVED” (Romans 10:13).

THE KEY TO HEAVEN:

“That if thou (YOU, dear friend) shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine HEART (to believe with the heart is to trust Jesus to forgive your sins and save you through His shed blood) that God hath raised Him from the dead, THOU (yes, YOU) SHALT BE SAVED.

“For with the heart man believeth unto RIGHTEOUSNESS: and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation” (Romans 10:9, 10).

YES, IT WORKS! *I know!* I did what this Scripture says many, many years ago, and the Lord Jesus saved my soul. He will do the same for you.

Jesus knows your heart, He knows the desire of your heart. YOU DO WANT TO BE SAVED, DON'T YOU?

Then—BELIEVE on Him, RECEIVE HIM, CALL ON HIM. He will save you, He will come into your heart—and you will know it. You will KNOW IT because you will have PEACE!

Just bow your head and tell God that you know that you are a sinner, and that you believe Jesus died on the cross that sinners might be saved. Talk to God as you would talk to your earthly father or mother, or to your doctor about your health. Tell God you know you are lost and will spend eternity in hell if you are not saved.

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