

# Make Church a Part of Your Life

## WEEKLY SERMONETTE

### "A Grateful Heart"

By Preacher/Teacher Terry Laughlin, CrossRoads Ministries

Luke 17: 12 - 18 says this, "As [Jesus] was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance and called out in a loud voice, 'Jesus, Master, have pity on us!'"

"When he saw them, he said, 'Go, show yourselves to the priests.' And as they went, they were cleansed. One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him--and he was a Samaritan."

"Jesus asked, 'Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?'"

Tinder-dry, dusty, brown... livestock grazing on the parched pastures... winter wheat barely finding enough moisture to struggle to the surface. Just last fall and even early this spring, this described Norton County. As the winter proceeded without any plentiful moisture, some were beginning to despair of their livelihoods. The local economy was looking pretty bleak. Some began to be hopeless, but others began to call prayer meetings. They called out to God to grant us the neces-

sary rains to save the crops. Now, look out your window. Everything is lush, green and almost miraculously alive! The flowers were never so abundant nor smelled so sweet as this spring. We, too, called out "Jesus, Master, have pity on us," and God in heaven answered yes to our prayers!

The lepers cried out for help "in a loud voice." The

one who returned praised God "in a loud voice." Have you thanked Him and praised Him as much, as often and as loudly as you prayed for His blessings? Are you in church regularly on Sunday mornings as a thank offering to Him, praising Him and trusting Him for the harvest?

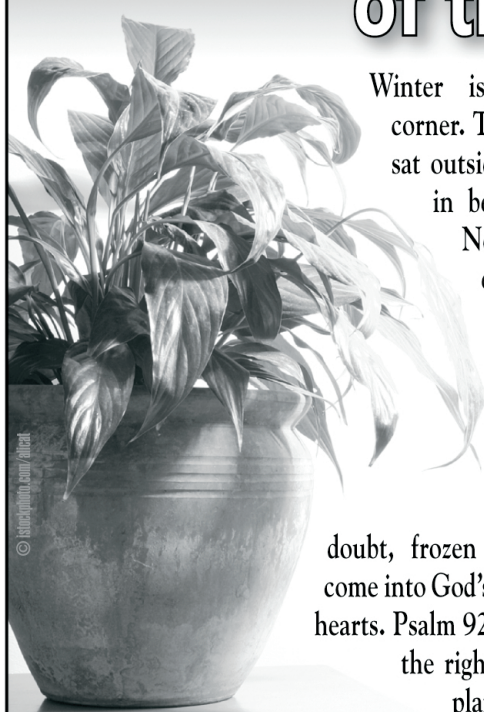
Isaiah 29: 13 says, "These people... honor me with their

lips but their hearts are far from me." Although giving verbal praise to God is good, the highest praise you can give to God is to give Him your life with NO restrictions, whatsoever. Receive the Lord Jesus Christ. Know and obey His Word.

A precious hymn of the church records this verse, "O give us homes where Christ is Lord and Master, The Bible read, the precious hymns still sung; Where prayer comes first in peace or in disaster, And praise is natural speech to every tongue..."

Can you be the one who will come to God and say, "Lord, I am SO grateful that you have given me life and that your mercies are new every morning. I am so grateful that your beloved Son Jesus Christ came to earth to die in my place so I can receive forgiveness of my sins when I repent and believe in Him. Father God, help me to live a life of gratefulness and repentance that will honor you in all ways by turning from going my own way to pursuing Your way as proclaimed in the Holy Scriptures. From here forward, may my life be a thank offering to you!"

## Planted in the House of the Lord



Winter is just around the corner. The potted plants that sat outside have been carried in before the first frost. Now they shine like emeralds in the sunny window, thriving in the warmth. We experience seasons of "winter" in our lives, when we are overcome with doubt, frozen with fear. We can come into God's house and warm our hearts. Psalm 92:12-13 promises "... the righteous will flourish... planted in the house of the Lord."

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Psalm 48	Psalm 65	Psalm 66	Psalm 67	Psalm 81	Psalm 82	Psalm 84

Scriptures Selected by The American Bible Society  
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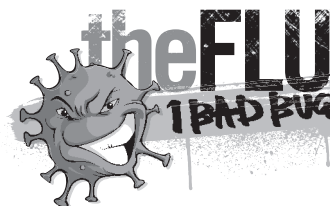
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- Cough or sneeze into your elbow or a tissue (not your hands) and throw used tissues away.
- Stay healthy. Eat a balanced diet, drink plenty of water and get plenty of rest and exercise.
- Stay home. When you are sick, stay home to avoid spreading the bad bug.
- Get your seasonal flu vaccination every year.

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