

Make Church a Part of Your Life

WEEKLY SERMONETTE



"How to Say Thanks"

By Preacher/Teacher Terry Laughlin, CrossRoads Ministries

"HEALTHY GRATITUDE BEGINS WITH FEAR OF SIN"

It is our sins that put Christ on the Cross of Calvary. Romans 3:23 says, "There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus." To have sinned (hamartane) means to have missed a mark on the way. It is missing the intended purpose for which God created you.

Sin is lawlessness, a willful act of breaking the law or choosing to be ignorant of the Word of God. (1 John 3:4) It is of the devil. (1 John 3:8; John 8:44) It is all unrighteousness. (1 John 5:17) It is omission of what we know to be good. (James 4:17) It is whatever is not of true faith. (Romans 14:23) It is the thought of foolishness. (Proverbs 24:9) Sin is all the imaginations of the unrenewed heart apart from the Lordship of Christ. (Genesis 6:5; 8:21)

The Word of God describes sin as coming from the heart. (Matthew 15:19) Sin is the fruit of lust, (James 1:15) the sting of death, (1 Corinthians 15:56) and rebellion against God. (Deuteronomy 9:7; Joshua 1:18) It is the works of darkness, (Ephesians 5:11)

and dead works toward the kingdom of God. (Hebrew 6:1; 9:14) It is the very heart and mind that God hates, (Proverbs 15:9; Jeremiah 44:4,11) which leads

to mocking the Lord, (Psalm 74:18) defilement, (Proverbs 30:12; Isaiah 59:3) deceitfulness, (Hebrews 3:13) and disgraceful. (Proverbs 14:34)

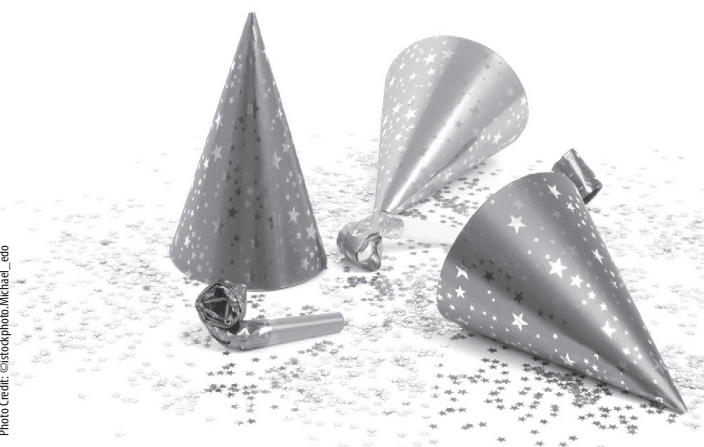
Sin is great, mighty, manifold, and presumptuous in God's sight. (Exodus 32:20; 1 Samuel 2:17; Amos 5:12; Psalm 19:13) Sometimes sin is open and manifest, (1 Timothy 5:24) sometimes secret, (Psalm 90:8. 1 Timothy 5:24) besetting, (Hebrews 12:1) like a stain that cannot be removed, (Isaiah 1:18) and reaching to heaven. (Revelation 18:5) The Bible teaches that sin entered into the world by Adam, (Genesis 3:6-7; Romans 5:12) all of mankind are conceived and born in it, (Genesis 5:3; Job 15:14; 25:4; Psalm 51:5) no one is without sin, (1 Kings 8:46; Ecclesiastes 7:20) except Jesus Christ, (2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15; 7:26; 1 John 3:5) and apart from the cleansing work of the Holy Spirit of Christ all of mankind is directed by it from birth unto death. (Psalm 51:5)

Before anyone can express true gratitude at Thanksgiving, he must understand the nature of the sinful heart apart from the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Mankind must understand that they are lost before they can be saved.

Healthy Gratitude Begins with Fear of Sin!

Celebration Time

Why celebrate the end of one year and the beginning of another? Few of us have come close to perfection in the year just ending—so we look ahead toward a brand new chance, blank pages in the next chapter of our lives. What will we do with them? On the eve of a New Year, most of us have the desire to try harder, to be better people. We make resolutions, we say "out with the old and in with the new". It's a time to celebrate. Begin the year the best way of all at your house of worship. Celebrate God!



Weekly Scripture Reading					
Luke	Luke	John	Luke	Hebrews	Hebrews
1:57-80	2:1-20	1:1-18	2:21-52	1:1-14	2:1-18
Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society					
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