

Introduction

Below are brief introductions to our lessons this week for each adult class.

Adult Topical Class (Bible Studies for Life – How to Build Your Life on God’s Word)

Teachers: Craig Pleasants & Bob Kemble.

Lesson Title: Three Reasons for Giving Thanks

Focal Scripture: Psalm 107:1-9

Theme: Give thanks for the ways God is at work in your life.

Overview: This week we have a special focus lesson appropriate for Thanksgiving with scripture from Psalm 107. The Psalms were the worship songbook for ancient Israel and 107, written to celebrate the Jews’ return from exile, opens with a general call for us to “*give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good: for his mercy endureth forever*” (107:1). This passage reminds us how important it is to give thanks unto the Lord, particularly for His mercy towards us in regards to the forgiveness of sins (Hebrews 8:12). Subsequent verses praise God for his help in times of despair and adversity when we may be slow to recognize God’s help, as related in the “Footprints in the Sand” story which closed with God answering “The single set of footprints were the times I carried you.” This lesson challenges us to take time in loving gratitude to pray and thank God for His good work in our lives.

⁶*And the LORD passed by before him (Moses), and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering (slow to anger), and abundant in goodness and truth,*

⁷*Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, Exodus 34:6-7a*

²²*It is of the LORD’S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. ²³They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. Lamentations 3:22-23*

²*For his merciful kindness is great toward us: and the truth of the LORD endureth forever. Praise ye the LORD. Psalm 117:2*

Adult Bible Book Class (Xexplore the Bible – Amos; Jonah; Hosea; Micah)

Teachers: Janice Willis & Thomas Littleton.

Lesson Title: Hope Found

Focal Scripture: Micah 7:1-10, 18-20

Theme: Hope is found in God’s promised salvation to those who trust Him.

Overview: We wrap up our series of lessons from Micah this week in the closing chapter 7 which opens in gloomy lamentation (1-6), followed by a message of hope (7-13), and ends with a prayer of praise (14-20). Micah was discouraged by the lack of righteousness among the people of God who were consumed by their own selfish interests and caught up in a cycle of sin and corruption for which God would soon send judgment. Yet he held to his faith, declaring “*I will wait for the God of my salvation*” (7), confident that God would save them out of the dark times and that one day the LORD Himself would be their light (8). Jesus would fulfill this hope. “*Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity*” (18) and who will cast all our “*sins into the depths of the sea*” (19). In a world overshadowed by sin and death may we always remember “*the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord*” (Romans 6:23)

as we walk humbly in His light.

¹²*Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. **John 8:12***

³*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again (given us a new birth) unto a lively (living) hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, **1 Peter 1:3-4***

Closing Thoughts

As we celebrate another Thanksgiving, we too often focus on material blessings, or perhaps amid all the busy activities of cooking, eating, and football games even forget to thank God beyond the momentary interruption of saying grace. This year may we meditate on and thank God all our blessings, especially for the greatest blessing of all in the gift of forgiveness and eternal life through Jesus Christ who defeated death and gave us hope beyond the grave!

⁵⁶*The sting of death is sin; and the strength (power) of sin is the law. ⁵⁷But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. **1 Corinthians 15:56-57***

May we keep this at the top of our list of things to be thankful for this Thanksgiving and may we tell or remind those we celebrate the holiday with about the Gospel of salvation.

¹*O give thanks unto the LORD; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people (let the whole world know what He has done). **Psalm 105:1***

And may we not neglect to gather in church to collectively worship, praise and thank our Creator, Lord, and Savior; while encouraging one another, and being encouraged in love.

⁴*Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. **Psalm 100:4***

We Need to Thank God (as sung by the Inspirations)

1st Verse: We think that life should always be fair, we make a mistake when we try to compare;
Sure God is concerned about what we need, but there's more than what's here, there's eternity.
The grass is not greener on the other side, since the Garden of Eden that's been Satan's lie;
We need to confess how much we've been blessed, We need to thank God.

2nd Verse: The evil swim in an ocean of gain, while the righteous drown in a river of pain;
And sometimes it seems God doesn't care, that the wicked get wealthy while His people despair.
But there's an appointment that all men will keep, those souls without God won't like what they reap;
When we consider their end, and the wages of sin, we need to thank God.

Chorus: We need to thank God for all that we have: the cross, the Word and the blood of the Lamb;
A Savior Who prays, a Spirit Who stays, sealing us until redemption day.
A heavenly Father Who cares for our needs, provider of all the gifts we receive;
I don't know about you, but friend I believe we need to thank God.

Please prayerfully consider meeting with us this week for 10:00 am Sunday School as we fellowship, encourage, and study God's word together.