

**Tuesday, November 14, 2017**

## **Giving Credit Where Credit is Due**

**A little girl whose father was a disc jockey, a radio announcer, was invited to a friend's house for dinner. When she arrived, the mother asked the little girl if she would honor them by saying the blessing.**

**It delighted the little girl. She cleared her throat, looked at her wristwatch, and said, "This food, friends, is coming to you through the courtesy of almighty God." Well, she was right, all food that we eat comes through the courtesy of almighty God.**

**I heard about a man in Asia who was caught in a terrible storm. He promised God a sacrifice of 20 oxen if he survived. As the storm quieted, he thought: "Why be so foolish as to give oxen? Why not nuts instead?" On the way to offer the nuts, he became hungry and ate the nuts. He ended up offering the empty shells as his sacrifice. Empty lives and empty promises seem to go hand-in-hand. Some people do not feel what we feel on this day. Thanksgiving is a foreign concept to them.**

**Some of us, whether we admit it or not, are like Bart Simpson. In one episode of THE SIMPSONS, young Bart sits down with his family to a meal. When it's his turn to pray and give thanks, he says something to this effect: 'Lord, my dad earned the money to pay for this food, and my mom worked for hours to cook it. What did you do? Thanks a lot for nothing.' How sad. But that's the way many people today think. Many people have no feeling of Thanksgiving.**

**DEUTERONOMY 8:1-18**

**God wants to bless you.**

**It is not an ungodly desire to want and pursue a better life with better results.**

**It is wrong to be covetous.**

**Greedy for material wealth**

**You cannot serve God and money**

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***It is wrong to be selfish***

***It is wrong to not Give Credit Where Credit is Due!***

***James 1:16-18 Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.***

**CONTENTMENT MAKES A THANKFUL HEART**

- ***Hebrews 13:5-6 Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?"***
- ***Ecclesiastes 5:18-20; 9:7-10***
  - ***Enjoy your work***
  - ***Enjoy your life***
  - ***Enjoy your family***
  - ***Enjoy the God who created you, and who will some day judge you.***
- ***The chief end of man is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever!***

**FOR WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL?**

- ***Take a few minutes and share three specific things for which you are thankful with someone near you now.***
- ***What are the common themes of our thankfulness?***
  - ***Faith***
  - ***Family***

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- ***Friends***
- ***Health***
- ***Peace, love & joy***
- ***Hope of eternal life***
- ***God's purpose***