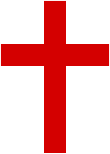
** **West Union Baptist Church**

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*“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me.” John 14:6*

***November 2024 Newsletter***

Dear Members and Friends of West Union Baptist Church,

As Thanksgiving approaches, we’re reminded of the power and necessity of gratitude. In Luke 17:11-19, we read about ten lepers healed by Jesus, but only one—a Samaritan—returned to give thanks. Scripture records, “And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, And fell on his face at his feet, giving him thanks” (Luke 17:15-16 KJV). Jesus asked, “Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine?” (Luke 17:17 KJV). Jesus’ question challenges us to remember that true thanksgiving is vital to our relationship with God, opening our hearts to His presence and drawing us closer to Him.

David, known as “a man after God’s own heart,” often expressed thanksgiving to God, even during difficult times. In Psalm 9, David declares, “I will praise thee, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will shew forth all thy marvelous works” (Psalm 9:1 KJV). He knew that giving thanks wasn’t based on circumstances but on God’s faithfulness. David’s thanksgiving was an act of faith, drawing him into God’s presence. Psalm 100 invites us to do the same: “Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name” (Psalm 100:4 KJV). Thanksgiving brings us before the throne of God, preparing our hearts for worship.

The Apostle Paul, who endured great suffering for the gospel, exemplified a heart of gratitude even in trials. In 2 Corinthians 9:15, he exclaims, “Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift” (2 Corinthians 9:15 KJV). This indescribable gift is Jesus Christ Himself, the most significant reason we have to be thankful. Paul reminds us that, regardless of our circumstances, we can give thanks for the gift of salvation and God’s constant love and mercy.

My recent devotional time has been centered around Psalm 91, and I’m continually reminded of this passage's importance for us. Psalm 91 speaks profoundly about God's protection and refuge, saying, “He that dwelleth in the secret place of the highest shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty” (Psalm 91:1 KJV). This powerful psalm calls us to pray and read these promises over our families and fellowship. As we give thanks, we can hold onto the assurance that God is our fortress and shield, keeping us through every trial and storm. When we thank Him for His protection, our faith grows, and we experience peace in His unwavering presence.

Let’s reflect on all God has done for us during this and every season. Like the one leper who returned to give thanks, let’s be the ones who turn back and recognize God’s hand in our lives. May we not miss any opportunity to express our gratitude this Thanksgiving. For He is good, and “his mercy endureth forever” (Psalm 107:1 KJV).

In Christ, Adam