



First Edition

March 2015



First Baptist Church of San Mateo 2801 Alameda de las Pulgas San Mateo, CA 94403 650-345-1965 www.fbcsanmateo.org

Gratitude and Thanksgiving - a Way of Life

By Pastor Marc Heinz

In 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, the Apostle Paul writes: *'Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.'*

Here in these verses, especially in verse 18, it is very obvious that gratitude and thanksgiving should be an integral part of a Christian's life. Not only is it to be an integral part of our life, it should also be something that we desire to do. We should have a genuine desire and passion to praise the Lord and give thanks to Him.

In Psalm 30:11-12, the Psalmists says: *"You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; You have loosed my sackcloth and girded me with gladness that my soul may sing praise to You and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks to You forever."*

This Psalm speaks of the fact that we should want to give thanks to God. The Psalmist is writing to address the fact that God has done tremendous things for him. He is saying because of your intervention and all the changes you have brought to my life, because I was in a sad state of despair and anguish, and you turned all that pain into joy. Because I was hurting and you have turned that into gladness, with everything that is in my being I will give thanks to you forever.

Now the reality is before we knew Jesus Christ we were in the state the Psalmist described in Psalm 30. We were trapped in our sin. We were destitute. We were headed for a destiny that none of us would enjoy. But God intervened through His Son Jesus Christ and we who have received Him as our Savior

have our sins forgiven. As a result, we can know a joy and peace that is absolutely indescribable because of what our Savior has done.

To use the language of the Psalmist, each of us was dressed in sackcloth, we were destitute and lost; on our own we couldn't change our situation. But Jesus comes and He strips all that away and He clothes us in His own righteousness. He presents us to the Father and that which was sad and hopeless is now an exuberant situation of hope and joy as we come to know Jesus as our Lord and Savior. Therefore, we, just like the Psalmist who was prompted by the things that God had done for Him, should be prompted with a desire to be overflowing in gratitude and thanksgiving to God.

Folks, because of Jesus Christ and all that He has done, we are no longer clothed in sackcloth or in the despair of sin. Instead, we have been clothed in the righteousness of God and set on a path of hope that will be fulfilled when He returns for us. We are free! But we dare not lose sight of the fact that this privileged and wonderful position in which we find ourselves as the children of God is a result of Christ and Christ alone! Not one of us could be reconciled to God on our own, or because of our own merit. Paul is very clear about this in Romans. He tells us that we couldn't do anything for ourselves. We all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. We did not have the ability to break the power of sin over us. However, Jesus broke the power of sin and gave us the privilege of being rooted in Him. As a result, we are safe and secure, fixed in a relationship with God that is unchanging and no matter how much ability or strength you may

have, you couldn't do that for yourself. It is God who has done it, and it is God who maintains it, and nothing can separate you from Him. You are rooted in God, and because of that wonderful truth you should not only be offering yourself wholeheartedly to God, but you should be overflowing with gratitude and thanksgiving!

Of course it's one thing to say that Christians should be people who are overflowing with gratitude and thanksgiving, it's quite another thing to actually do it. So how do we become people whose lives are characterized by gratitude and thanksgiving? In Colossians 3:17, Paul says: and *"Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father."*

So in reality if I am living in a way that honors God, if I am conscious of God and His will as I go about my daily life, everything I say and all that I do, can be an expression of thanksgiving unto God. If we are really thankful for what God has done there are ways to express that. There are ways to express that in an overflowing way. By assembling together, through worship, through obedience, through perseverance and loyalty to His Name. Through service unto God.

Ultimately, if we really understand what God has done, and continues to do on our behalf, then what will happen is that we will abundantly be overflowing with gratitude and thanksgiving. Let's strive to be people who not only have as an integral part of our life, praise unto God, but a desire to bless His holy Name for all that he is for all He has done!

CAD (High School) Retreat - February 20-22

By Doug Andrews

We had an incredible time of growth in Christ, learning to read His Word, learning to pray and develop our devotional life, plus a few team building activities and outdoor adventures. Even though there was no snow, God was powerfully working in all of our lives to open our eyes to His will for us and how we can practically grow in Him. We bonded, challenged each other and grew. The goal was to teach and equip students to know how to develop a personal devotional time and how to read and understand the Bible for themselves. It is through experiencing these disciplines that we can spend time with and know God personally.

The Lord had us study through the book of Colossians. Out of that came a message that pointed us to challenging students to live a life of true and eternal "PURPOSE." God's purpose, which is, knowing Him personally, then His will, and living a life worthy of Him.

Our key verses were in 1:9-11, "we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with

the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father."

What a powerful and amazing opportunity we have all been given in Christ. To KNOW Him and to live a life of true PURPOSE in HIM!!! Here's a couple testimonials from our students and leaders:

Daniel Bjornson: He showed me that I need to put my faith solely in him, since he knows the grand scheme of things and where I fit into it. He also showed me that He provides us with people, people who can help us become closer to Him.

Chelsea Alonso: God showed me a lot this past weekend. He told me that He never left me and He never

let me go. I don't have to be afraid anymore of my circumstances because He will protect me and the things I go through, if I am leaning on God it will only make me stronger. Psalm 64

Keanu Tan: God showed me that He wants to give my life eternal purpose and meaning. I really want to know Him better and follow Him more in my life.

Clay Minter: It was a pleasure to be with the high school youth this weekend. There was no shortage of fun even though there was a shortage of snow. But that didn't seem to bother anyone. On Saturday they did a team building activity that they absolutely nailed by working together so very well.

The real reason we were there was to get to know Jesus better. And we all learned a lot after our four meetings where we did a study through the book of Colossians. I was very impressed with the answers they had for the observation, interpretation, and application of the sections we looked at. It gave me great hope for the future of the Kingdom. These students that God called to go on this trip came away with a beginning of a full knowledge of Jesus, seeking to know His will, and how to live a life worthy of the Lord... a life of true purpose.

Thank you to our church family for your prayerful support as we were together in the mountains with God. We can't wait to see all that He is going to do in the life of the church and in the lives of these students in the future.

Our Jr. High School Retreat will be March 13-15. Call Doug Andrews at the church office for more information to sign-up.



Holy Week Choir

Join us SUNDAY MARCH 8TH for a kick-off Lunch/Rehearsal after church.

Regular rehearsals are on Wed Eve services followed by rehearsals for Holy Week Events:
Palm Sunday and Resurrection Sunday
 Questions, Contact Doug Andrews

Studies in James Continue
Tuesdays, March 3 and 17,
7:00 p.m. in the Chapel.

FBC WOMEN'S Ministry

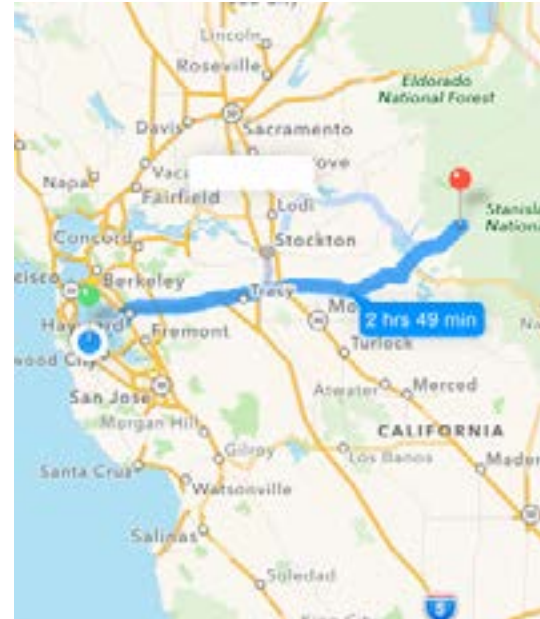
FB Consummate Man

ATTENTION ALL MEN:
Men's Ministry Monthly Breakfast
Saturday, March 7,
8:30 a.m.
in the Chapel.

Doxology
Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! "Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?" "Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?" For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.
 Romans 11:33-36

Retreat Details:

- We are staying at a family cabin in Sierra Village, CA is located near Sonoma along Hwy 108 the Sierra Nevada Mountains, at an elevation of 5,000 feet. There is snow this time of the year and so warm snow clothing is important to pack. The phone number of the cabin is 209-586-7261. My cell # is 650-504-7868.



Cost is \$40, which includes transportation, food, and retreat materials. But please let me know if you would like to receive scholarship support.

What to bring: sleeping bag, pillow, towel, toiletries, warm clothes, jacket, hat, gloves, snow boots, and \$25 recommended spending money for food on the trip up and back, as well as a possible activity (ice skating - \$10) on Saturday afternoon. If you also have an air mattress or sleeping pad, that would be good to bring.

Travel: We would like to leave from the church as soon as possible on Friday to beat traffic out of the Bay Area. We are requesting that (if possible) you enable your son or daughter to **leave school early to meet at the church at 12:00 pm**. That way we will beat the traffic out of the bay area as well as be driving in any weather conditions during daylight hours. If this is a problem, please talk to Doug about arranging later transportation. If picking your son/daughter up from school is a problem we can arrange to pick them up for you, no problem. Also, if bringing their luggage with them to school is not possible, you can bring their stuff to the church the night before.

We'll be driving 3-4 vehicles: driven by Doug Andrews, Clay Minter, and Amber Shong or Regina Coffey. All experienced drivers.

We'll be returning from the retreat around **5 pm on Sunday at the church**. We'll be in touch with you before then to give you exact times.

Please let me know if you have any further questions or special issues.

Doug Andrews, Youth Pastor
650-345-1965: dandrews@fbcsanmateo.org

FBC - Jr. High Winter Retreat

Sierra Village, CA



Ready to go DEEPER?

This is going to be a weekend that will be life changing. You won't want to miss this event with all of us at CAD. We'll be getting away to a great mountain cabin in Sierra Village CA, to play in the snow, study the Word of God, pray, worship and really grow together in Christ. There is great sledding, ice-skating, and other snowy adventures nearby. But the most important part of this weekend is how we will be deepening our knowledge of God and our personal relationships with Him.

A family in the church has donated the use of their cabin this weekend for us to get away and enjoy God's creation.

Friday afternoon through Sunday afternoon
at a cost of only \$40.00.

Includes all meals, lodging, retreat materials and events.

Cost \$40.00

Scholarships available
Sign-up NOW

Mar. 13 - 15th, 2015



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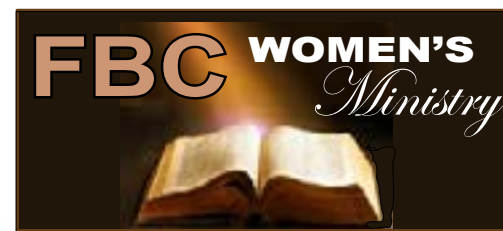
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**Registration Form
for FBC Women's Winter Retreat
March 20, 21, 22, 2015
Friday - Sunday
Deadline for Registration is March 12.**

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

_____ I am willing to room with anyone attending the retreat

_____ I prefer to room with _____

_____ I would not mind being in a triple.

_____ I would like a single.

Amount for Retreat: \$186.00 for double occupancy;
\$240 for Single
\$169 for Triple
Includes 2 nights lodging and 6 meals.

Please make your check out to **First Baptist Church.**

Paid _____

Carpooling:
I can drive _____ I can take _____ (number of women)

I plan to leave the church parking lot at _____ (time).

_____ I need a ride.

Partial scholarships are available, or if you would like to provide a scholarship, please see Sandy Murray or contact her at Belmontron@aol.com or 650-591-2566.

Registration forms are available in the Sunday bulletins through March 8th.



**Bay Area Sunday School
Conference
March 5, 6, & 7, 2015
Redwood Chapel Community
Church, 19300 Redwood Road
Castro Valley, CA
Training and equipping workers in
the church since 1963**

It's that time of the year again. First Baptist Church has registered spaces for all who wish to learn ways to teach, to better understand the needs of people, and many other helpful ways to improve your ministry.

This is for you at no cost. There will be opportunities to carpool and that information will be forth coming soon as well.

If you you may register at their website (www.bassconvention.org) or call (510)585-9914.

About the Retreat

By Sandy Murray



On March 20th - 22nd, Friday - Sunday

An opportunity to grow in the word and have fellowship with other women of FBC and friends is yours by filling out the registration form found on another page of First Edition and inserted in the weekly bulletins. It will be two nights this year as requested from many who attended last year. It is an opportunity to get away and have some time alone with God.

The vision of FBC Women's Ministry is "That all who participate in this ministry will ' . . . grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18, NASB)' and encourage their family, friends, and others to do likewise."

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

March 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 8:30am Men's Breakfast  Daylight Savings Time Begins	
Communion	7pm Scouts	7pm AI-Anon 7pm C.A.D. 7pm Women's Bible Study	6:30pm Midweek Service 6:30pm AWANAS 8pm Worship 7pm Scout Leaders Meeting	3pm Youth Band Reh. 7pm TNT			
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
12:30 Children's Ministry Lunch	7pm Scouts	7pm AI-Anon 7pm C.A.D. 7pm AI-Anon	6:30pm Midweek Service 6:30pm AWANAS 8pm Worship Rehearsal	3pm Youth Band Reh. 7pm TNT	 JUNIOR HIGH WINTER RETREAT MARCH 13-15 Church-wide Work Day 10am-4pm		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
12:30pm Women's Ministry Team Meeting	7pm Scouts	7pm AI-Anon 7pm C.A.D. 7pm Women's Bible Study	6:30pm Midweek Service 6:30pm AWANAS 8pm Worship Rehearsal	3pm Youth Band Reh. 7pm TNT			
Jr. Hi. Retreat							
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
Women's Retreat	7pm Scouts	7pm AI-Anon 7pm C.A.D. 7pm AI-Anon	6:30pm Midweek Service 6:30pm AWANAS 8pm Worship Rehearsal	3pm Youth Band Reh. 7pm TNT		BOWLING FELLOWSHIP 1pm - 3:30pm at Bel-Mateo Bowl	
29	30	31	SUNDAY MORNINGS: 9:30am Bible Studies for Children and Adults Contemporary Style Worship 11:00am Bible Studies for Adults and All Youth Classical Style Worship				All Events Are Subject to Change.
PALM SUNDAY		7pm AI-Anon 7pm C.A.D.					
HOLY WEEK - March 29-April 5							