



New Covenant  
BIBLE CHURCH

# Life Together

From the Pastor's Desk....

## Moving from Gloom to Gratitude

In Psalm 77, the psalmist didn't feel grateful. He felt gloomy.

*Will the Lord spurn forever,  
and never again be favorable?  
Has his steadfast love forever ceased?  
Are his promises at an end for all time?  
Has God forgotten to be gracious?  
Has he in anger shut up his compassion?*  
-Psalm 77:7-9

Charles Spurgeon understood this condition, both pastorally and personally. He wrote:

"Spiritual darkness of any sort is to be avoided, and not desired; and yet, surprising as it may seem to be, it is a fact that some of the best of God's people frequently walk in darkness; ... some of them are wrapped in a sevenfold gloom at times, and to them neither sun, nor moon, nor star appears. As the pastor of a large church, I have to observe a great variety of experiences, and I note that some of whom I greatly love and esteem, who are, in my judgment, among the very choicest of God's people, nevertheless, travel most of the way to heaven by night... They are on their way to eternal light, and yet they walk in darkness. Heirs of a measureless state of bliss, they are now without the small change and spending money of comfort which would make their present existence delightful. It is idle to attempt to judge a man's real character before God by his present state of feeling."

(continued on page 2)

## PSALM 100

*1 Make a joyful noise to the LORD,  
all the earth!*

*2 Serve the LORD with gladness!  
Come into his presence with singing!*

*3 Know that the LORD, he is God!  
It is he who made us, and we are his;  
we are his people, and the sheep of his  
pasture.*

*4 Enter his gates with  
thanksgiving and his courts with  
praise! Give thanks to him; bless his  
name!*

*5 For the Lord is good; his  
steadfast love endures forever, and his  
faithfulness to all generations.*

**To bring glory to God  
through Spirit-transformed lives  
by the beauty and power of the gospel of Jesus Christ**

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Pastor's Desk continued.....

There are times when God's people *feel* as if God has slammed the door on his compassion. That's where the psalmist was: "When I remember God, I moan; when I meditate, my spirit faints" (Psalm 77:2).

But then he gets a hold of himself. It's as if he's in the middle of a litany of sorrows, when he says: "Stop! Cut the tape! Silence! It's time to stop listening to myself — I need to start preaching to myself."

I remember when my girls were little, they used to love watching *Anne of Green Gables*. (OK, I'll admit it: I enjoyed the movie myself!). One of my favorite lines is when Anne Shirley, in typical melodramatic fashion, blurts out: "I am in the depths of despair." Her Aunt Murilla — a staunch Calvinist whose unwavering confidence in God's providence makes her unsympathetic to these blasts of emotional fervor — will have none of that. Aunt Murilla reproves Anne sternly: "To despair is to turn your back on God."

I love it when the psalmist moves from gloom to gratitude. How does he do it? He takes his eyes off his circumstances, no matter how miserable they feel, and he redirects his gaze to the eternally good and faithful Rock of Ages.

*Then I said, "I will appeal to this, to the years of the right hand of the Most High." I will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes, I will remember your wonders of old. I will ponder all your work, and meditate on your mighty deeds. Your way, O God, is holy. What god is great like our God?*  
-Psalm 77:10-13

No matter how you feel this Thanksgiving, may your heart be filled with thankfulness as you remember the deeds of the LORD and his unfailing love toward those who trust in the Name of Jesus. When your heart is under the influence of the gospel, gloom will always give way to gratitude.

Gratefully and gladly serving you,

Pastor David Sunday

### My Heart is Filled with Thankfulness

My heart is filled with thankfulness to Him who walks beside;  
Who floods my weaknesses with strength and causes fears to fly;  
Whose every promise is enough for every step I take,  
sustaining me with arms of love and crowning me with grace.

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### Prayer Needs:

#### Health Needs-

- ♦Don Martin
- ♦Shirley Owens
- ♦Kate Sunday

#### Christmas-

- ♦Savior Concert Outreach

#### Missions-

- ♦Funds for Togo Hospital
- ♦2011 Poltava Missions Trip

## Calendar of Events

◆First Annual Turkey-Bowl! Thanksgiving Day-8:30 a.m.

◆Savior Concert, Friday, Dec. 10 at 7:00 p.m. & Sunday, Dec. 12 at 6:00 p.m.

Dessert to follow.

◆Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, 4:00 p.m.

◆Christmas Sunday, Dec. 26, 10:00 a.m.

◆New Year's Sunday, Jan. 2, 10:00 a.m.

◆NO Sunday School Classes on Dec. 26, or Jan. 2. Classes will resume on Sunday, Jan. 9.