



Lighthouse of Iowa

Keeping in touch with Iowa's Churches of Christ

November 2019

The Attitude of Gratitude

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

~ 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

One thing that makes this passage of Scripture powerful is the Apostle's attitude and admonition in spite of the many hardships he faced in the midst of his work. (2 Cor 6:4-5; 11:22-29)

He considered it worthy of mentioning to the brothers and sisters -- *"In everything give thanks."* I am unsure if he wrote it because brethren were in the habit of complaining, but I suspect it may have been motivated by being aware of the normal uncomfortable aspects we all have to face from time to time. Perhaps he had words on his mind that he had previously uttered in Acts 14:22, *"We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God."* Whatever the motivation, these words are very powerful and will help us through the difficulties we all must face from time to time.

As we look at our world today, there are many places in the midst of societal upheavals. South America is having a number of rebellions. Europe is having its share of turmoil. There are problems in the Far East. Of course, the Middle East is always having serious problems. And, yes, our own country is having a severe political and moral divide on many issues. Unfortunately, I do not foresee a calming in the near future, and I suspect it will continue to worsen, especially in light of my following observations.

With all of these problems happening in our world, how can the Lord's people keep their spirits pure and their lives at peace? By applying the principles Paul wrote in the above passage. And truly one of the principles that can help us tremendously is the attitude of *"Gratitude"*! And yes, in every circumstance!

To be sure, I do not think this is teaching us that we are glad or happy when facing severe trials. But it is telling us to be thankful in all things. We can be thankful the Lord is helping us deal with these types of things. We can be thankful for our growth that may be a result of dealing with difficulties and the lessons we can learn from serious difficulties.

I heard an interesting discussion this morning on the importance of *"Gratitude"*. One of the highlights was that we can always see things in our lives and be grateful for them if we are willing to look for them. The most contented people in our world are those that are thankful for what they have! And all we have to do is look around with spiritual and grateful eyes.

Consider this—How many of us awoke this morning with the knowledge we had food available to us? How many of us slept last night in a dwelling that kept the cold or heat or rain or wind off of us? How many of us had at least one closet filled with apparel of all sorts including shoes and jackets and other forms of clothing? How many of us of working age had jobs we were relatively assured were waiting for us? Jobs that would continue to purchase the above necessary items in the near future? How many of us felt relatively confident that when we returned home from working or shopping or other errands our dwellings would be unmolested? I am very confident the vast majority of those reading this article could say *"Yes!"* to probably all of the above questions if they were honest with themselves. Yes, I know there is a very small percentage in this land who cannot say yes to all of the above questions, but can you?

And of course, there are the special and perpetual spiritual blessings in heavenly places that we, as the Lord's Christians, are promised by our God. How many of us

have faithful brothers and sisters to meet with every week as the Lord's congregation? And we have numerous Bibles at hand as we continue to seek our Lord's will in a better and more sure way. There are countless blessings showered upon us as rain from Heaven if we would only open our eyes!

The same writer who gave us the above passage also wrote in Philippians 2:14-16 *"Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain."*

From my perspective *"complaining and disputing"* is a sign of a lack of gratitude for what we have. *"Complaining"* was probably the single most destructive factor that led to almost the entire number of adults of that first generation of Israelites that were brought out with Jehovah's mighty hand to march and die in the Wilderness. And this was in spite of the great blessings the Lord provided bringing His people out of bondage and providing them what they needed in the wilderness.

In my estimation, it is a lack of gratitude that is at the heart of many of our problems in these United States. It is at the heart of many whose lives and spirits are in turmoil today. Let us, as the Lord's people, not be among this number. Let us continually give thanks and appreciation for what our God has bestowed upon our lives both physical and even more importantly, spiritual. Let us *"in everything give thanks"*.



— Jay Graham

Chariton

Meeting times: Sundays: 10:00 a.m. (no evening services)
Location: 15th & Roland, Chariton, Iowa
For information call: Albert Schreck (641) 535-2381 or Brian Schreck (641) 535-2931

- Norm Riekens had a procedure done on his knee to alleviate the pain he has in it and it seems to have helped.

November Birthdays

- ★ None

November Anniversaries

- ★ 27 Norm & Mary Jo Riekens

Dean Avenue

Meeting times: Sundays: 9:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.
Last Sunday of the month: A social after morning services meeting back at 1 pm instead of 6 pm.
Location: 2907 Dean Ave., Des Moines, Iowa / P.O. Box 57398, Pleasant Hill, IA 50327
For information call: John McNeece (515) 263-9428

Rick Sparks will be here on November 23rd and 24th for a weekend meeting.

On Saturday, we will meet at 7:00 p.m. On Sunday, we will meet at 9:30 a.m., have a potluck dinner and meet again at 2:00 p.m. Everyone is invited.

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- Neal Warren is having some bad days with the progression of the Parkinson's disease. Please remember him and Peg.
 - John and Jessica Chapman announced they are expecting a baby in June, 2020. They thanked everyone for their support and prayers. This event is long awaited, and they are very excited.

- Tom Collier from the Martensdale congregation met with us, and gave an excellent morning exhortation.
- Yvonne Coe is improving from her fractured pelvis. She is back home where she is still receiving physical therapy.
- Skip & Risa Schamel vacationed in Florida.
- **Visitors:** Bill, Bryan, Max and Tally Charlier, Nancy and Zoey Evans, Paxon Boozell, Jake & Kara McClung and Tom Collier.



November Birthdays

- ★ 3 Mary Dobberke
- ★ 18 Karma Sharp
- ★ 27 Dillon Dobberke

November Anniversaries

- ★ 2 Skip & Risa Schamel

Fairview

Meeting times: Sundays: 10:00 a.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.
Location: 1001 S. 22nd St, Clarinda, Iowa 51632
For information call: Richard Negley (712)542-3728 or Marvin Negley (712)542-2792

- *Our hearts were saddened this past week with the passing of our sister in Christ, Jean Negley.*

But we are rejoicing in her life well lived and her devotion to her family, church and community.

She leaves behind her husband, Marvin, of almost 60 years, three sons—Paul, Van and Mark; along with the in-laws, 7 grandchildren and many other friends and family.

- Visitor: Paul Negley



November Birthdays

- ★ 6 - Marvin Negley
- ★ 11 - Jack Swisher
- ★ 19 - Judy Madden

November Anniversary

- ★ 20 - Steve & Tammie Driftmier

Martensdale

Meeting Times: Sundays: 10:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.
1st & 3rd Sunday of the month: Basket dinner after morning service, meeting back at 1 pm instead of 6 pm.
Location: 10985 44th Lane, Prole, Iowa (1.5 miles east of Martensdale, IA on Hwy. 92)
For information call: Duane Proudfit (515) 961-4470 or Mike Penick (515) 681-0279

The Spring Meeting 2020

Formerly hosted by the Dean Avenue Church of Christ, will be hosted by the Martensdale Church of Christ on March 28 & 29, 2020. Watch for more information in the coming weeks.

Questions? Contact Duane or Mike at the phone numbers listed above.

<http://martensdalechurchofchrist.org/index.php/about-us/spring-meeting-2020>

Visitors:

October 6

- Steve, Cerine Proudfit and girls; Dennis, Cindy and Daniel Stanley; Kirk and Bethany Ford; Faith Fenton; Evan Haas and Jordan Bown.
- And all in the area for the wedding of Ethan Schreck and Megan Stevens.

October 13

Friend of Rodney and Alena. He attended services with his five young children.

October 20

- Stephanie Stevens and children visiting the Penick family; Hannah Clevenger visiting Drew, Courtney and Millie Teghtmeyer.

Other visitors this month:

- Garrett Weeks
- Mark, Ginger, Gabriel, & Shea Hermon
- Jordan Bown, Marge Flack, and Sharon Stevens.



November Birthdays

- ★ 14 Finneas Wheeler
- ★ 16 Christy Henderson

November Anniversaries

- ★ 13 Charlie and Pam Deckler
- ★ 18 Tom and Dianne Collier
- ★ 28 Alvin and Marlene Bown

Pleasant Hill

Meeting Times: Sundays: 9:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.
3rd Sunday of the month: Potluck after morning service, meeting back at 1 p.m.
Location: 5091 E. University, Pleasant Hill, Iowa
Website: pleasanthillchurchofchrist.org
For information call: Mike Warner (515) 967-4529

Several members have been traveling this month:

- Mike & Shirley Warner spent some time in Branson, MO;
- Larry & Bev Brady took a bus trip out East, seeing the autumn sights, including Niagara Falls;
- Niko & Carly Felice were in Minneapolis to attend a wedding;
- Joyce, Ryan, Taylor & Patrick Ingle went to Missouri to visit Joyce's Dad, Roy Whanger, to help him celebrate his 95th birthday; and
- Sharon Mineart went to Lone Jack, Missouri to visit her daughter Mrs. Megan Schreck.
- We were thankful to welcome Kelsey Wood's mother, Kimberly Bucher James, to services this past month.

Those with illnesses, surgeries, etc.:

- Jason Brady had the flu;
- Tom Brady had a cardioversion procedure done to get his heart back into rhythm;
- Allison George had surgery on both feet to repair *plantar fasciitis* and remove bone spurs from her heel. Allison's note,
"I would like to thank everyone for the visits and food brought to her home during this time. It was very enjoyable and made a lasting impression on

the kids. They have decided it would be great if I could have surgery more often! Haha!"

- Steve Thompson fell at home, outside on the cement. He was taken to ER with lots of x-rays taken. Praise the Lord no bones were broken; just lots of aches and pains. Thank you to all for your prayers and cards!
- Please pray for Julene Pappan's sister-in-law, Robin, who is fighting cancer.
- Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Jean Negley family as they deal with her loss.
- Lord willing, Rick Sparks will join us on Sunday, November 10 for the installation of our new officers. Please continue to pray for God's will.



November Birthdays

- ★ 3 Nick Hermon
- ★ 8 Tammy Brady
- ★ 15 Kathy King
- ★ 17 Patrick Ingle
- ★ 18 Ryan Ingle
- ★ 20 Marge Flack
- ★ 20 Marty Williamson
- ★ 26 Larry Brady

Anniversaries

- ★ None

Vandalia

Meeting Times: Sundays: 9:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:30 p.m.
Location: 2.5 miles east of Runnells, Iowa on F70, then 1 mile north on 131st St.
Website: vandaliacoc.com
For information call: Greg Ingle (515) 994-2824 or Charles Ingle (515) 966-2537

- Charles and Angie Ingle enjoyed two weeks of vacation where they were in Montana and enjoyed being in Glacier National Park.
- Trent and Leah Fiorentin and Eva attended a wedding in Kansas City.
- Lynnette Dowdy and Nancy Clark spent a few days around Branson, and attended the week-end meeting in Nixa, MO.
- Doug and Lisa Fiorentin enjoyed a short vacation in Chicago.
- Justin and Brittney Dowdy and children have been spending some time in Indiana with Brittney's mother while she is undergoing treatments for her illness.
- Richard Goode is in the hospital after having another TIA.

- We sang with the residents in Mitchellville Care Center on a recent Sunday evening.
- **Visitors:** Bobbi Jo Dilley, Valerie Burkman, Bruce and Sue Schreck, and Ryan Zinnell.

November Birthdays

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|----------------------|----------------------|
| ★ 2 Ellie Wiedemeier | ★ 3 Tina Hinckley |
| ★ 7 Isaac Miller | ★ 14 Adaline Dowdy |
| ★ 14 Alexander Dowdy | ★ 15 Cheyenne Goode |
| ★ 15 Gavin Burkman | ★ 15 Morgan Cummings |
| ★ 16 Erin Ingle | ★ 17 Nancy Clark |
| ★ 24 Angela Ingle | ★ 29 Lynnette Dowdy |
| ★ 29 Doug Fiorentin | ★ 30 Brett Cole |

November Anniversaries

- ★ 13 Richard & Mary Ellen Goode

If you would like a current or past copy of the *Lighthouse of Iowa*, they can be found at the following two Church websites:

Vandalia Church of Christ

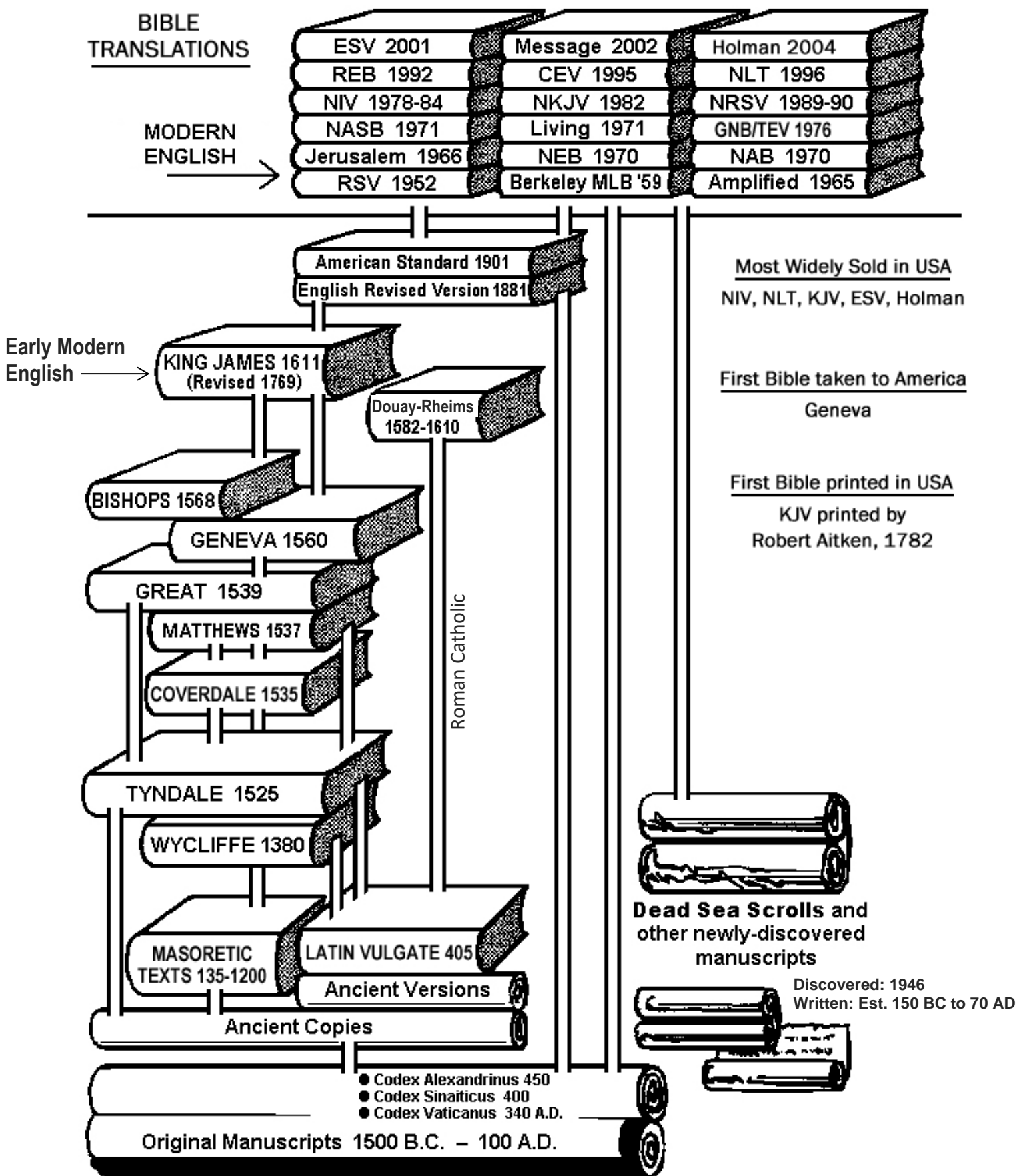
<https://vandaliacoc.com/lighthouse-of-iowa.html>

Pleasant Hill Church of Christ

<http://www.pleasanthillchurchofchrist.org/library.php>

(select *Iowa Lighthouse* under the Library tab)

CHRONOLOGY OF ENGLISH BIBLE TRANSLATIONS



Charted adapted, corrected and updated from Thompson Chain Reference Study Bible by David Ahl, 2015, www.BibleStudyMen.com