



GRAHAM STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

Rooted - Growing - Reaching

November 22, 2020 Sunday

Bulletin Announcements and Updates—

“Too Much Religion to Give Thanks”

When I think about Thanksgiving, I find myself going back to the story of the ten lepers in Luke 17. If you don't recall the story, here it is:

On the way to Jerusalem he was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.” When he saw them he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus answered, “Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” And he said to him, “Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well.” (Luke 17:11-19)

This story has always fascinated me. Were the nine healed lepers that did not come back not thankful for their healing? Notice Jesus does not say anything about “giving thanks,” even with the one that did return. Luke, as the narrator of the story, writes, *“Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks.”* He was thankful for his healing, and he gave thanks to Jesus for his healing. He recognized the healing as coming from God and praised God for it. And whatever his level of understanding of who Jesus was, he acknowledged Jesus as God's agency to bring the healing. But the others, the nine, were also healed, but they did not return to address Jesus in combined expressions of praise and thanks. But Jesus just mentions the praise. *“Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?”* They were probably thankful to be healed, but they did not return to say so. Jesus gives us an indication why. He tells the one who did return to *“Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well.”* It was his faith that made him different from the nine. Now they were all healed, so how can you say that his faith made him well, if they were all healed, but he was the only one with faith? His faith did not come until after he was healed, and he realized his healing came from God through Jesus and he ran back to praise and thank him. The other nine were healed, but they did not attribute their healing to God through Jesus, so they did not come back to give praise and thanks for it. The leper who came back was not only healed of his leprosy, but his sin diseased spirit was healed by his faith that was willing to act upon God's grace in Christ.

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“Too Much Religion to Give Thanks” Continued

This is subtly pointed out by the emphasis on where they were going and who he was. Jesus did not heal them on the spot with healing words or touch, he told them to go show themselves to the priests. They went, and on the way, they were healed. The one who returned was a Samaritan, who did not associate the power of God with the priests or the temple. Apparently the nine probably did. When the nine were healed they probably continued on to the temple to see the priests to receive the ceremonial cleansing commanded in the law so they could begin a normal life free from leprosy. But the Samaritan knew what had happened to him was from God through the man Jesus, and he stopped his journey to the temple to see the priest, he ran back in praise to God thankful for his cleansing.

There are a lot of things I would like to say about this, maybe in a sermon sometime, but for now, as we prepare for Thanksgiving, let me ask this, “As Christians are we often like the nine? Are we so involved in looking at our healing in view of the rules that we are keeping to receive it that we don’t express our praise and thanksgiving out of faith in the one who made us well? Have we become so fixed in our attention on our religion that we can no longer just be overwhelmed by the God of Grace who makes us well through Jesus?” Maybe we need to stop what we are doing and go back to the source of our healing to give Him praise and thanks. That would be a great way to spend Thanksgiving!

David Bearden

➤ OPPORTUNITIES TO BE TOGETHER IN STUDY AND PRAYER

Sunday Bible Class TONIGHT 5:00 p.m.! Adult Class in the auditorium. The Family Class & the Teen Class will not meet tonight. But everyone is encouraged to attend the Community Thanksgiving Service at First Baptist Church starting at 6:00 p.m. Don’t forget to work on your Family Parable Video.

Sunday Morning Worship: 9:00 or 10:45 a.m. at the building.

Audio with Slides Recording on website (<https://grahamstreetchurch.com/sermons>)

Family Resources: <https://www.grahamstreetchurch.com/house-church>

“First Things First Bible Study” Video for Small Groups and Bible Classes is on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/grahamstreetchurch/>

Study materials on website: <https://www.grahamstreetchurch.com/house-church> or <https://grahamstreetchurch.com/small-group-materials>

Chronological Bible Reading: <https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-reading-plan/chronological.html>

➤ **Dr. Ben Edwards from Veritas Medical will be speaking Saturday, November 21**, at Cornerstone to help educate our community on how to take care during this pandemic. He will start at 10:00 a.m., break for lunch and conclude about 3:00 p.m. This is a great opportunity to get much needed insight from a well respected doctor.



► UPCOMING DATES TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR

Sunday, 11/22/2020—THIS MORNING! Special Thanksgiving Services Sunday morning

Sunday, 11/22/2020—TONIGHT! 6:00 p.m. Sunday evening Community Thanksgiving Service to be held at First Baptist Church—sermon by Wayne Hancock, preacher at Cross Timbers Church of Christ next week

Sunday, 11/29/2020—Special Sunday Night Worship Service for everyone (5:00 p.m. in auditorium)

Sunday, 12/27/2020—No evening worship

Sunday, 01/03/2021—Special Sunday Night Worship Service for everyone (5:00 p.m. in auditorium)

► NEWS/UPCOMING EVENTS

The Church Office will be closed Wednesday, November 25th through Friday, November 27th, for Thanksgiving.

► Giving Update

Contribution 11/15/2020 \$10122 Budget: \$9,700 YTD Contribution \$ 445,624 YTD Budget: \$446,200
Building Fund \$274,556 (this is the total amount given since start of Phase 2— the funds given to date have been used for the new roof and new A/C units.)

► **Texans for Christ College Ministry Announcement:** College students can stay up to date with what our college ministry has going on through our website <https://texansforchrist.org>

► **Youth Group Announcement:** If you haven't yet, please go to grahamstreetyouth.org to fill out the **Student Info Form**. This allows us to have current info for students & parents, as well as what activities students are involved in this school year. Young people, 7th –12th grade can stay up to date with what our Youth Group has going on through our website <https://www.grahamstreetyouth.org>

► Graham Street Grill: Live Q & A Bible Study and Church Member Interviews

On pause—announcement about restart in the near future.

<https://www.facebook.com/grahamstreetchurch/>

► **Chronological Bible Reading:** <https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-reading-plan/chronological.html>

► Basic Needs Totals for October:

Seniors 121 Families Served 106 Individuals 368 New Families 9

Total amount made from Garage Sale = \$5,400.00



Charles Williams; Ronnie Moring; Doug Gasset; Denise Powell; Paula Busby; Paula Oliver, Micaela Moore, Cynthia Price, Jody Caudle who has continuing health problems, Mike DeMott, Tabitha McClellan, James Young; Debbie Kitchens; Peggy Glover; Jerry Lindley; Pam Clayton; Billy Powell; Steve & Ginger Ham request prayers for their family; Bobby Tate; Brad & Shirley Fry (they both have been diagnosed with COVID-19—he has been preacher at Tolar Church of Christ); The family of Kenneth Gaines who recently passed away. The Lively family, Cindy Lively’s father, Web Jordan passed away recently. The Ramirez family Rai Ramirez’s father, Rafael Ramirez, passed away recently. The family of Joni Stubbs, daughter of Eugene & Larinda Ray, who passed away this week; Alan & Jan Nix, who have been hospitalized with COVID-19.



Mark your calendars! The Community Christmas Dinner will be held on **Wednesday, December 16, 2020, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.** It will be an event similar to Nights of 100 Casseroles and be a drive-through for people wanting to have a Christmas dinner provided by Graham Street Church of Christ. Prep will be from December 12—16. Meals will also be delivered to people who cannot come by the Family Center. Servant’s Supper, for those who help prepare the meal, will be on Tuesday, December 15, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.



We are participating and we will need volunteers to assist! Please plan to be a part of this if your schedule permits.