

“Our Heart of Thankfulness”

A famous British poet by the name of Rudyard Kipling made a great deal of money as a writer. A newspaper reporter came up to him once and said, “Mr. Kipling, I just read that somebody calculated that the money you make from your writings amounts to over one hundred dollars a word.” Mr. Kipling raised his eyebrows and said, “Really, I certainly wasn’t aware of that.” The reporter cynically reached into his pocket and pulled out a one hundred dollar bill and gave it to Kipling and said, “Here’s a one hundred dollar bill, Mr. Kipling. Now you give me one of your one-hundred-dollar words.” Rudyard Kipling looked at that piece of currency for a moment. He took it, folded it up and put it in his pocket. He said one word, “Thanks.”



The word “thanks” is certainly more than an overpriced word, wouldn’t you agree? It is a word that is too seldom heard and nearly forgotten in our society today. King David spoke very clearly of this thought when it came to a particular culture about saying thanks. *“One generation will commend your works to another; they will tell of your mighty acts. They will celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness.” (Psalm 145:4,7)* If any people ought to be thankful, it should be Christians. Why? Because we know that we do not deserve anything.

So often we see a different kind of perspective in the world around us and that is, “privilege”. Karen and I recently took a walk in a local mall and we saw so many people scurrying around looking for that perfect Christmas gift. Everyone expects a gift from that special person, but is there a heart of true thankfulness? The mindset of thankfulness that I speak of is the real expression of our love to Him in our personal relationship, to each other in the church and to the “curiosity-seekers” in the world.

Shortly, we will be celebrating a traditional holiday that has been in our country since 1863, when President Abraham Lincoln declared Thanksgiving a federal holiday during the American Civil War. Don’t let this marvelous tradition escape you without conveying your gratitude to the One who truly deserves it. Please don’t get so busy and hurried that you don’t pause to praise God for all He has done, is doing and will do in our lives.

Karen and I are thankful from our hearts. We are grateful to the One who loves us so deeply, even in midst of our greatest trial with cancer. Our hearts are indebted for His sovereign care over us, even when our circumstances seem like a speeding rollercoaster. Then there is our precious family, as they stand by our side giving constant encouragement to stay focused on Jesus. We praise God for many friends like you, who have prayed continuously for miraculous healing. We also have deep appreciation for the many wonderful pastors that faithfully serve their churches throughout the CB North Central region.

I will leave you with some encouraging words from a wise man that had real perspective about thankfulness in life. *“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” (Colossians 3: 16,17)*

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