

GraceNotes

A Monthly Newsletter of Grace Christian Church

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GROWING IN GRACE “Remembering (On Purpose)”

As November arrives so do the two red letter days known as “Veteran’s Day” (Nov. 11) and “Thanksgiving” (Nov. 28). Both days are based on ‘remembering.’ On Veteran’s Day the sacrifices of military service are remembered. On Thanksgiving the providences of God are remembered.

It’s important to remember the backstories of blessings. The backstories always include benefactors. No one can ever truly say, “I did it,” or “I got it all on my own.” Everyone is a beneficiary of someone at sometime. Of course, it goes without saying that we are all beneficiaries of God all the time, even moment to moment. He is The Great Benefactor.

The opposite of remembering is forgetting. Forgetting the sacrifices of others, including veterans, is a serious slight. Forgetting the benevolences of God is a grave sin. God Himself warned, “*Watch yourself that you do not forget the Lord your God*” (Deut. 6:12).... “*Beware that you do not forget the Lord your God*” (Deut. 8:11).

To forget blessings extended and benefits bestowed is virtually synonymous with ingratitude. And ingratitude is a soul-imperiling vice. In his *Inferno*, Dante located the ungrateful at the lowest part of hell. Shakespeare called ingratitude a “marble-hearted fiend.” Sir Walter Scott wrote, “Ingratitude comprehendeth every vice.” Leslie Flynn posited, “Ingratitude is the cesspool of every other sin.” Most profoundly the Apostle Paul identified a graveyard spiral into spiritual depravity that began with ingratitude and ended in utter reprobation (ref. Rom. 1:21-28). So ingratitude is a ‘gateway vice’ that God’s people, most of all, must avoid with utmost vigilance. Even the proverbial “familiar favor forgotten” can be the commencement of an insidious descent into unmitigated wreck and ruin.

November remembering at GCC is exceedingly apropos. Indeed it was five years ago this month that Oakwood Forest Christian Church and Grace Covenant Church began worshipping together to become Grace Christian Church. Then and since then the Lord has provided all the spiritual, material, and financial resources needed to sustain a growing family of faith. It goes without saying that our response to the same is and always must be a faithful stewardship proposition. Gratitude requires no less. In I Corinthians 4:2, the Apostle Paul reminds us, “*It is required of stewards that one be found faithful.*”

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