

ARBC

Sunday, November 20, 2011

**Brother Dave:** Good morning church! The Bible says where the spirit of the Lord is there is liberty. Let's stand and begin worship time by singing.

(Singing...Words on Large Overhead Screen)

Take a moment and turn to your neighbor, tell them you are glad to see them in God's house this morning.

(Words on Large Overhead Screen)

(Applause) thank you church you may be seated

Lynn Holloman good morning! Last week we had our commitment Sunday and will see just a bit more as we wrap up. We will have our Operation Freedom celebration and our Thanksgiving too. I want to thank all of the Sunday school teachers and we are thankful it all went well. I also want to thank Lane, for all the videos. I have no idea how long it takes to do a video but one I got this morning was done at 5:30 a. m. He doesn't want thanks, but let's give him a hand.

Also, Lisa Worley, Brother Donnie. It will be a great affect on our folks. I want to give you a brief word of explanation for the video you will see. We did something called special ops and we looked at some things. Some normal, Operation Christmas Child postage, goal was exceeded. Anything else marked special ops would go to benevolence. One other thing is we had a special staff member that used to be here with us and that was Jim & Judy Crutchfield; his wife has MS and we all chipped in to send them to You will see just a small piece. Thank you.

Hey we are Jim & Judy Crutchfield we are former staff members here, started 1991 until 2002. Now pastor at Bethany Baptist. Jim and I when we got married wanted to go to Hawaii when we retired. But as my health changed so did our plans. Things behind the scenes started to impact that. Suddenly ARBC surprised us with a dream of a lifetime. 3 sisters from ARBC cleaned my entire house. Neat because God taught us how to be allowed to be ministered to. So overwhelming, not sure how to say thank you. But we can't say it enough to our friends at ARBC. You worked with our congregation at Bethany to make this happen.

Applause!

**Pastor Donnie:** That is what being free is about. Able to bless others when not bound down. That is what you can do when you don't have debt in your life. Be the

vessel and servant that God has called you to be.

Today is a big day. Thanksgiving is Thursday. Today is a big day a lot going on. Thanksgiving dinner today at 5. We have about 12 tickets available, first come first serve. After service you can see Bill Johnson to buy those. After dinner will come back here at 6:30 with Shiloh High School Chorus and Lora Drey from SE Coop. We are asking for you to bring an extra can good tonight so we can send them off with her tonight. We want the doors to be flooded with food so they can hand them out to folks this week.

Don't linger too long at dinner because we are opening up the service to the community. If you get stuck over there, you will have to help clean up. There may be some seating issues.

Next Sunday I will lead a New Member Class. If you are interested in being a part of the church or a regular attendee or have questions. Please RSVP so you can eat lunch; we will give you food and information.

Next Sunday night is the Greening Service starts at 6:00.

Also next Saturday night December 3 you will see Handel's Messiah. Our adult choir will perform "Sing Gloria" on December 10, 11. We will also have Parent's Night Out for the parents to go out and the youth will be watching the kids for you.

Also if you are a guest, it is awesome to see you. Take a few minutes to fill out visitation form so we can contact you. Include prayer requests, this Wednesday no activities, because of holiday. Enjoy the time with your family. All of these announcements are in the bulletin if you missed anything.

Tim come and lead us.

(Choir and Orchestra playing "Praise to the Lord, The Almighty")  
(Applause)

**Pastor Tim:** Amen, Good morning church, good to see you this morning, happy week of Thanksgiving. What a great song. Wonderful to see you, good to see Seth and the students back. Need to go to the Lord in prayer. We need to remember Melvin & Denise Howard, with his mother passing. Also pray for Brother Joel, good to see you. Shirley Hilton, Andy & Barbara in the death of their son.

Father we thank you for this morning. May our hearts cry out to you with great praise. May we have Thanksgiving in our hearts. Help us to look to you and praise you even in the difficult times. We pray for the people on our prayer list. The ones that have lost loved ones, and those with health issues. May you fill their hearts and lives. As we continue our worship may you have the freedom to move. Amen.

We have had a great few weeks of Operation Freedom; as our choir sings, you can watch some videos of some of our folks that have gone through FPU.

(Choir Singing - Sorry no words available)

(Applause)

**Brother Dave:** Amen, do you know how it feels to be free this morning? I tell you what; we are such a blessed people. As we head towards Thursday that our nation has set aside, let's stop and take a moment for the blessings that God has given us. Let's stand as we sing.

(Singing...Words on Large Overhead Screen)

**Brother Dave:** Lord Jesus, father we thank you that we can sing that song today with authority, based on your holy scriptures. We claim the promise that we are yours and you are ours. Thank you for that wonderful grace that flowed so freely down Calvary's cross. Thank you we have a home that we can gather to worship you. We pray it is acceptable in your sight. As we give our tithes back to you because you have given so freely to us, remind us you own it all, we are the managers. Help us to be good stewards of the blessings you give us. Be with us during this service and beyond, we pray in your name, Amen.

(Jacquie McKnight - Singing) Shackles. (Words on Large Overhead Screen)

(Applause)

**Pastor Tim:** Amen, let's pray. Father we thank you that you have come to release us from the shackles of this world and life that you can set us free. That we can celebrate the freedom in Christ. Help us to want to give you a sacrifice of our life and praise to you for all you have done. Amen.

Thank you Jacquie, that was great, I hope that woke you up. Turn to Psalm 50 if you have your bibles. Parents want to teach their children to say thank you. A woman to a pharmacy the other day and the pharmacists gave her son a piece of candy and she said what do you say? He said charge it!

That is not a good thing to do.

In the book of Psalm, we will look at A Sacrifice of Thanksgiving. I hope that it will be encouraging to you. Difficulties come, physical, spiritual, etc. But I hope that you will get today that we are to be thankful. I love everything about Thanksgiving, the smells, being with family. Tonight will be special; we will have dinner together and have fellowship,

and I hope that you will all be here. There are 12 tickets left if you don't have one. At 6:30 Shiloh Choir will be here.

As we leave we want to focus on what our sacrifice of Thanksgiving will be today.

Psalm 50

7: "Hear, O my people, and I will speak, O Israel, and I will testify against you: I am God, your God.

8: I do not rebuke you for your sacrifices or your burnt offerings, which are ever before me.

So there they were, bringing sacrifices forth.

9: I have no need of a bull from your stall or of goats from your pens,

10: for every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills.

11: I know every bird in the mountains, and the creatures of the field are mine.

12: If I were hungry I would not tell you, for the world is mine, and all that is in it.

13: Do I eat the flesh of bulls or drink the blood of goats? (Rhetorical question – the answer is no)

14: Sacrifice thank offerings to God, fulfill your vows to the Most High,

15: and call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor me."

Now Psalm 50 shows us God is trying to teach his people about thanks. He doesn't need the bull or the goat. If I were hungry I don't need to tell you. Because God owns it all. He owns the cattle on a thousand hills. We don't own anything. The world is his. He wants a sacrifice of Thanksgiving. If we can't do that, God wants us to take it off of his alter.

Verse 14 says it clearly; offer to God a sacrifice of Thanksgiving"

It is not a casual thing. A sacrifice means more than that. He wants us to look at what he has done this year and this day. My Greening Service is that it might mean that we give thanks to God even when God hasn't solved all of our problems.

Christianity is knowing the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior and following him in all we do.

We hear stories about missionaries that have given their lives for Christ. They offered the ultimate sacrifice for God.

Matthew 5:10-12 says

10: "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11: "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

When you are not promoted in your job or people say things about you that are not true,

12: Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they prosecuted the prophets who were before you.

You are in good company. When difficulties come our way we are in good company. Are we blessed? Yes, are we safe? No. God protects us. But when things happen and we come to God we need to have thankful hearts.

A book written by Kathleen Norris called *Amazing Grace* a vocabulary of faith.

After she wrote this book she went back home to a small town after many years of being away from the church.

She wrote during these lean years, long before I had return to church, I recognized that coping with my failures was a spiritual discipline. And that when other writers I knew received the grants I had applied for I had to congratulate them.

Matthew Henry was a Bible teacher and was robbed but in his diary he wrote this.

"Let me be thankful first because I was never robbed before;  
Although they took my money, they did not take my life  
Because although they took my all, it was not much.  
Because it was I who was robbed, not I who robbed."

That's a grateful heart, a sacrifice of Thanksgiving. To go through that and not think pitiful me. He was able to find the good and create thankfulness to the Lord God. We need to do the same thing. Some folks here are going through physical body pain, emotional pain, etc. But God wants us to come and interrupt the usual Thanksgiving Day. Not why haven't you healed me? We need to include them into our list of Thanksgiving. To be thankful for the pain, and emotional things we are going Thursday?

Craig Barnes was a noted Presbyterian minister. He was diagnosed with Thyroid cancer. The same time David Payne the churches associate pastor's son was

diagnosed with colon cancer. The church came together and prayed but both; the pastor was healed the boy was not. Sometimes you will come to me and ask why, and I can't say why it happened. We need to pray for healing but we must never forget to pray "not my will but your will be done". And God does answer the prayers.

Later the pastor wrote in his article, about the prayers of the people. It says "I'd love to say that I was healed because of the prayers, but I know better." Too many people that we prayed for died this past year. Walking by faith means to include living with a lot of questions.

Look at Jesus in the garden. He said "let this cup pass from me" a powerful prayer. But not the fathers will for that cup to pass. So Jesus died alone with the burden of your sin and mine. It wasn't God's will but I don't mean this in a trite way, but when we pray over our loved ones for healing, you know it's a little selfish because God is going to heal, he is. Either here or we will be completely healed when he takes us home to heaven. And we are left missing those people, their love. But how welcomed it is when they enter heaven.

Those of you that know Melvin's mom have visited her for many years. She was in the nursing home with Alzheimer's and was across from my dad's room. But this week when I went to hospice to see her, she had her Bible in her hands. December 25, 2011 that Bible would have been 50 years old and it was well worn. Every page was marked, the front was listed her favorite songs. So tomorrow at the service will be a celebration time as we look at her favorite scripture and favorite songs. Listen to what she wrote.

"Lord, I confess I don't like it, but please do not give in to me, just wait Lord, and I will give into thee. I want most of all to please thee."

I don't know about you, how would you respond to a diagnosis of Alzheimer's or cancer. How will you respond when someone you love breaks your heart? Look to God and give a sacrifice of Thanksgiving to him.

We are all familiar with 1 Corinthians 13:12 Paul writes  
12: Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face.

Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

You and I never see what we really look like because we look in a mirror and it is opposite.

We only know a part, a glimpse of what is going on.  
Not everything in this life will be clear, or answered. A lot of things we can't explain. You and I will be tested with our spiritual resolve.

I have a book in my library from Philip Yancey and it tells a story about a daughter that has cancer and went to the hospital for the last time. She had written down a quote from William Barclay; she said "Endurance is not just the ability to bear a hard thing, but to turn it into glory."

That is like Ms. Lee's story. Endurance. Having the ability to turn it into the glory of God in our lives as we walk with him. What do we thank God for when we don't have explanations. What about the blessings? We can be so easily focused on what we don't have that we lose sight of what we do have.

What we have and don't have. We need to offer a sacrifice of Thanksgiving. I challenge this will be a spiritual challenge and many may overlook it.

Some of us are envious of what others have.

Some are frustrated that we haven't achieved more success.

We need to appreciate what we have dismissed along the way. Really look at our walk with the Lord, what he has done and what he will do for us.

Jesus prayed for that awful experience not to happen, but it did.

We need to pray for each other and lift each other up in prayer for our needs, but always to end with "not my will Lord, but your will be done". Are you thankful for what God has done all around you? May it so be. May our call be to be a people who are thankful and our lives be a sacrifice of Thanksgiving. What are you sacrificing? How can we serve, what can we do to better build the kingdom of God?

What a great time to ask the Lord to come into your heart, forgive you, save you. Some may need to take another step. You have been saved, but have overlooked some of God's blessings. Whatever your circumstances are, we want to thank him.

Some folks may need to join the church, be baptized, whatever the call is, we have had a great time in celebrating Christ. The evil one comes to bind us and hold us down, but Jesus has come to set us free.

What a great week, be aware all week of what God has done and will do.

Father we thank you for your word, for your blessings that we tend to overlook. Help us to be aware of your presence in our life. Help our church individually and together offer a sacrifice of Thanksgiving to you.

Let's stand and sing. Be the first to step out if God has spoken to you.

Will you surrender?

(Singing...Words on Large Overhead Screen)

(Music only playing)

(Singing...Words on Large Overhead Screen)

**Pastor Tim:** Amen church, thank you for your patience this morning. God is good all the time and all the time God is good. Are you glad to be here today? I look forward to seeing you all back here this evening. Jackie help me. The name of the funeral home is Horace Ward on Rockbridge. Close to Mountain Park Methodist.

Something else, but will remember later. Brother Robby Johnson please dismiss us.

Heavenly father, thank you for today. (Sorry can't hear)

Amen,