



Thanksgiving Service ***November 23, 2022***

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN #788 **Now Thank We All Our God**

SCRIPTURE READING **Psalm 139:1-17**

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN #790 **We Gather Together**

TESTIMONIES

HYMN #797 **Come, Ye Thankful People, Come**

BIBLE MESSAGE **Pastor Ernie Brodie, Jr.**

HYMN #169 **Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart**

CLOSING PRAYER

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Attitude of Gratitude **Rev. Dr. Ernest Brodie Jr.**

An attitude of gratitude is a cultivated virtue every true believer in Christ should desire to attain. We often foolishly think that if our circumstances were different, we could be happy. "If only. . . , then life would be good and I would be joyful." In Philippians 3:7-14, the Apostle Paul indicated that circumstances are not the source of joy or contentment. Maintaining an attitude of gratitude is based on our relationship with God.

1. **Regardless of my state, I can be content** (Philippians 3:7-8). It does not matter how I am doing materially. I can learn to be content. My past accomplishments or my heritage are not the source of peace.
2. **Because of Christ, I can be content, joyful, and thankful, and give praise** (Philippians 3: 9). There is no excuse for not being joyful in Christ. By virtue of my relationship with Almighty God, I can praise Him. Of all things, this matters most. Example of Job: Job 1:20-21: "Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped, And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."
3. **I can have peace as I focus on Christ** (Philippians 3:10-11).
 - A. The secret of contentment relates to keeping my mind on Christ. Consistently focusing on God and what He has called us to do makes all the difference.
 - B. Eight things for a believer to focus on: Philippians 4:8: "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."
 - **True** - That which conforms to reality. Truth is whatever God says. Focus on the truth in God's Word.
 - **Honest** - That which is worthy of respect or entitled to honor. Dwell on the dignified or holy. Those things which are honest and dignified.
 - **Just** - That which conforms to God's perfect standard of righteousness.
 - **Pure** - Free from defilement, free from contamination, that which is morally pure.
 - **Lovely** - This relates to conduct which endears people, lovable, endearing, amiable, gracious, charming.
 - **Good Report** - That which is well-spoken of. Believers should dwell on the good accounts where God is glorified.
 - **Virtue** - Excellence, worthy of merit, something of quality which stands out.
 - **Praiseworthy** - Literally "praise upon", praiseworthy thoughts. This is the opposite of being hyper-critical. The believer should look for the praiseworthy.