

## *The End*

David Halbrook

The end of 2014 is near, which brings to mind several truths worth thinking about—**How we track time** Tracking time by “years” is not a modern invention. Nor is it merely the result of human observation of the earth’s journey around the sun. In Genesis 1:14, we learn that on the fourth day of creation God declared that the heavenly lights are *for days and years*. What God told man before He revealed the book of Genesis to Moses we do not know. What we do know is that neither ancient, nor modern scientists invented “the year.” It was God’s idea first. Hence, *the heavens declare the glory of God* (Ps. 19:1). Remember that at the end of this year.

**Your life on earth will end** As the memories of this past year cause you to weep or smile, be sure to also think of the future. You will die, your body *will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it, and God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether it is good or whether it is evil.* (Eccl. 12:7, 14)

Considering these facts should humble and motivate you to diligently seek and serve God. May we help you do that?

Editor’s Note: This week’s article in *Arkansas Weekly* is simple and useful to saint and sinner. However you spend the end of 2014, include some time to think and/or talk about these things. This is one way that God teaches us *to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.* (Ps. 90:12)

### Simple opportunities to teach the lost and assist each other.

Pray for: Janice White, The Ledgerwoods, Novela Puckett, Noleka Hopper, Samuel Southall, others with ongoing trials, and new Christians among us.

*Join us each Sunday at 10AM (classes), 10:45AM, & 5PM and Wednesday at 7PM.*

Church of Christ—Quail Valley  
4104 E. Harrison St.  
Batesville, AR 72501  
Office- (870) 793-6700

Evangelist:  
David Halbrook 569-4491

# The Exhorter

Acts 11:23 *Exhorted them all... cleave unto the Lord*  
church of Christ--Quail Valley  
December 28, 2014  
[WWW.QVCOG.COM](http://WWW.QVCOG.COM)

## *Danger of Ingratitude*

Heath Rogers

Teaching our children to say “Thank You” is very important. We want our children to be polite, and to have good manners. Few things will please a parent more than hearing people give genuine complements regarding their children’s behavior.

However, the importance of teaching our children to be grateful reaches much further than our own satisfaction. Gratitude is essential in developing and maintaining a pleasing relationship with God.

In Romans chapter one, Paul speaks of the sinful condition of the Gentiles (vs. 18-32). What started out as a belief in God declined into involvement in and endorsement of every sin one could imagine. How did this happen? Paul says one of the first steps away from God is ingratitude. “Because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened” (Romans 1:21).

How can ingratitude lead to unbelief? If one fails to stop and express thanksgiving to God for His blessings, he will begin to take these blessings for granted. The longer he goes without expressing thanksgiving to God, the longer he will go without thinking about God at all. Such a one will lose his dependence upon God and come to believe that he is standing on his own. When one reaches this stage, his thoughts become “futile” and his heart becomes “foolish” and “darkened” because they are no longer centered upon God - they are centered upon self. God ceases to “exist” to the person who is no longer dependent upon God.

So, let’s continue to teach our children to be grateful, knowing this develops a dependence upon God that will keep them connected to God. However, it is equally important that we exhibit this gratitude in our own life.

When was the last time you really thought about God?

## *I Am A Total Dependent!*

Jesse Flowers

“Dependent” is defined as: contingent on another, subordinate, relying on or requiring the aid of another for support. “Dependence” is defined as: “the state of being dependent, as for support, trust, reliance; the state of being determined, influenced, or controlled by something else” (thefreedictionary.com). I am a total dependent, not upon my parents or the government, but upon Almighty God.

“O LORD, I know the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps” (Jer. 10:23). I recognize all too well that, “*There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death*” (Prov. 14:12). I cannot direct my own steps. It is not spiritually wise or safe to do so. I am totally dependent upon God to direct my steps.

I also realize that God’s thoughts are not my thoughts, nor are my ways His ways (Is. 55:8). “*For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts*” (Is. 55:9). Since my thoughts and ways are not to be relied upon, I am totally dependent upon God’s thoughts and ways.

Solomon spoke of this total dependency upon God in Proverbs 3:5-8 when he wrote: “*Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and depart from evil. It will be health to your flesh, and strength to your bones.*” I must not trust in the LORD with part of my heart, but with ALL of my heart.

To be totally dependent upon God, I must hear and do explicitly as He instructs me in His inspired Word (**Matt. 7:21, 24-27; 28:20; John 15:14; Col. 3:17; James 1:22-25; 1 John 5:3**). I am a total dependent. Are you?

---

## *What Doth The Lord Require? (Micah 6:8)*

Jesse Fleming

God had blessed and cared for Israel. He had delivered them from Egyptian bondage and into the Promised Land. They had accepted God’s blessings, but they did not honor or obey God. When called into account they desired peace with God on their own terms. Would God be pleased if they brought thousands of rams (God only required one) or ten thousand rivers of oil (God only required small amount)? “Shall I give my first born for my transgressions, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” (Micah 6:7)

God’s answer was (Micah 6:8) *He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and walk humbly with thy God?* God’s answer was not only to Israel but to man---Gentiles as well as Jews.

We must do justly, render to all their due. We must do wrong to no one, but we must do right to all. We must love mercy, not only to be kind to all whom we deal with, but kind to all who need us. We must not only *show* mercy, but we must *love* mercy. To love mercy means to be gracious, to live, pity (see Matt. 5:7).

We must *walk humbly with our God*. Enoch’s walking with God is interpreted (Heb. 11:5)—his *pleasing* God. We must in our manner of life, confine ourselves to the will of God, keep in communion with God, and study to approve ourselves to Him. We must *humble ourselves to walk with God* (so the margin reads); every thought brought into obedience to God. This is what God requires, not costly services which are vain. This is more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.

We must do the right things, at the right times, for the right reasons.

---

**Christians Are To Avoid: The love of money.** “But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.” (I Timothy 6:9-10). The authorized King James Version speaks of the love of money being the root of all evil. The New King James version translates the phrase to read, “For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil,” To exist in this world, there is a definite need for money. This is not to be denied, but the love and craving for it is to be denied. While money may not constitute the root of all evil, and this may not be the better translation, it is truly a root of all kinds of evil. The love of it can cause men to be drown in destruction and perdition. Coveting it can lead men to err from the faith, and bring many sorrows into their lives. Though one may question the love of money being the root of all evil, it certainly may cause men to commit all kinds of evil. We need to keep our affection upon things above and not upon the things of this earth, of which the love of money is one. Sin upon sin can be attributed to the love of money, and the love of it may exist without it even being possessed. We can help ourselves to avoid the love of money by contributing liberally to the Lord’s work and unselfishly helping those who are in need. “But whoso hath this world’s good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?” (I John 3:17).  
(excerpt from *Misplaced Affections* by Bobby K. Thompson)