

Words of

Truth & Reason

Acts 26:25

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CHURCH OF CHRIST—QUAIL VALLEY

THANKFUL OR FUTILE?

What do you think about on Thanksgiving Day? Without thankfulness, our lives are being wasted.

Thanksgiving Day ought to provoke some deeper thoughts and questions than eating turkey can evoke, but let's start there: Where did turkeys come from? Was there a time when turkeys did not exist or do they have eternal spirits? Without the Bible, you have no sure answer--maybe they were brought here by aliens or evolved from ancient amoebas! You may nod thinking "Anything is possible!" Yes, with God all things are possible, but not all things are reality.

Reality is that God exists and expects & deserves thanks. By ignoring His existence & rule and our duty to express our thanks to Him, we are led

into futile thinking and living. Romans 1 lists examples of futility, like false religion which often cannot distinguish between the value of human and animal life. Evil inventions, such as the mini-skirt, the theory of (macro)evolution, and lottery tickets all sinfully abuse God-given gifts. This is the life of those who do not like to retain God in their knowledge. Being unthankful for what He has said and done they prefer *to do those things that are not fitting* (Rom. 1:28).

On Thanksgiving, were your thoughts on things of thankfulness or futility?

IN THIS ISSUE:

- **Thankful or Futile**
- **Has God Saved You?**
- **Saints & Miracles**
- **Did You Miss Our Meeting?**

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HAS GOD SAVED YOU?

How would you react to the question "Do you know that God has saved you from your sins?" Some people would be offended that the validity of their salvation was questioned. Others would answer in a variety of ways ("Yes; No; I think so, but I'm not sure; My preacher or parents tell me He has; No one really knows; It doesn't matter").

Paul challenged the Corinthians to *Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves* (2 Cor. 13:5). Paul wanted them to know, not wonder. Paul not only taught people to test themselves--he also tested others. In Ephesus, he met some spiritually-minded individuals and questioned their baptism. They gladly answered his questions and were soon convinced of their need to be baptized again having never learned of the baptism of Jesus (Acts 19:1-7). Not all baptisms please God for there is one baptism (Eph. 4:5).

Jesus' baptism was not for infants, for the saved, or into a man-made religious group. If one of these is the baptism you received, you are without Jesus' baptism and lost. For further study see *Basics of Baptism* at our website (WWW.QVCOC.COM, under *Topics For Study*) or contact us with your question or comment.

SAINTS & MIRACLES

Was Jake's recovery miraculous? Was a seventeenth-century Indian responsible for it?

Kateri Tekakwitha, a 17th century Native American, was recently declared a saint by The Catholic Church for allegedly interceding for Jake Finkbonner, resulting in his recovery from a life-threatening flesh-eating bacteria in 2006. Beside Kateri, Jake credited the doctors' 29 surgeries with saving his life and reconstructing his face from the bacteria's damage. If Kateri really appealed to God for Jake, why the need for life-saving or reconstructive surgery?!?

1. **Who is a saint?** Paul wrote to the saints in Corinth who were washed and sanctified by Jesus' blood after hearing, believing, and being baptized (Acts 18:8; 1 Cor.1:2; 6:11). Based on these verses, are you a saint? You cannot become a saint after death even if a human council says you can.

2. **Genuine miracles** Contrast Jake's alleged miracle with Jesus' miracles. After Jesus healed Malchus and the woman with bleeding problems, did they need reconstructive or life-saving surgery (Luke 8:43-44; 22:50-51)? The record of miracles in the Bible is very different from claims of witch doctors, Buddhists, Pentecostals, and Catholics. Beware and contrast Bible miracles with modern miraculous claims.

-- Contact us for a free CD of a lesson on the subject of "Saints."

"Lord, Lord, have we not... done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you...'"
(Matthew 7:22-23)

You are invited to:
Sunday AM Bible classes:
10:00AM
Sunday AM Worship:
10:45AM
Sunday PM Worship:
5:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Classes
& Worship: **7:00 PM**

DID YOU MISS OUR GOSPEL MEETING?

In last month's publication, you received an invitation to our gospel meeting. This was a week full of opportunities for you to grow in a knowledge of the Bible. If you were unable to come, we want you to know that we recorded each lesson and want to send you CDs of the lessons you missed.

The topics of the week were "God's Antidote for Worry," "The Roman Road to Salvation," "What Can A Dead Man Do?" (answering the false doctrine of Calvinism), "Preparing Our Children For This World," "Unity & Uniformity," and "Surprises At Judgment" (will you be surprised on that day?).

We would be glad to send you a CD of any, or all, of these lessons free of charge. Simply contact us and let us know what lessons you want and where we should mail them. And tell anyone else you know about these free CDs. We'll be glad to mail them to anyone who is hungering for the truth.

Although our gospel meeting is over, you are always invited to come when we assemble.

Questions from this month's articles:

1. In what ways is futility seen in the life of someone who lacks thankfulness to God?
2. How do you know that God has saved you from sin?
3. What is the difference between the claim of Jake's miracle and the miracles of Jesus?
4. How were the Corinthians made saints?

* Mail your answers to church of Christ—Quail Valley 4104 East Harrison St, Batesville, AR 72501
OR, e-mail your answers to **TruthAndReason@suddenlink.net**

* If you have a comment or question, call (793-6700; 569-4491) or visit our website **WWW.QVCOC.COM**