

C.R.O.S.S.

Volume 3, Issue 11

November 2015

CROSS Fall Quarter

"The Christian Community Comes Alive"

November: Unit 3 – Spreading the Gospel

The November lessons describe the continuing spread of the gospel as recorded in the book of Acts. Once again, prayer is seen to play an important role in the process. The government forces became involved in the persecution of the new church, and believers discovered that their greatest weapon of defense lay in the prayers of the saints.

The question of how Gentile converts should be treated continued to be of great importance. We see how Paul took a strong stand for the principle of salvation by faith.

Our studies describes the expansion of the church throughout Asia Minor and into Europe. The primary individuals God used in that growth were Paul and Silas, as well as the young man Timothy. In each of the cities Paul visited, he looked for opportunities to connect with those who would listen to the truth concerning Jesus Christ. Our lessons further describe the methods he used in the work of missions throughout the cities of Greece. The final lesson in this series continues to explore Paul's methods of evangelism.

Scripture of the Month

"I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the Word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching". – 2 Timothy 4:1-2

My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins". – James 5:19-20

Clearly the theme of both these scriptures is to "spread the Gospel." Paul urges Timothy to stay ready to preach, for the Word of God will reprove (discipline and correct wrong), rebuke (strongly warn against wrong) and exhort (encourage us to do what is right).

James expounds on the same theme reminding us of the importance of sharing God's Word with others. This is powerful; sharing God's Word will help a brother or sister correct an error in their walk with God and bring them back to a right relationship with Jesus Christ.

It is the responsibility of every believer to spread the Gospel so that just as in the book of Acts, the church will continue to grow.



Rick Warren says "**....since the church is a living organism, it is natural for it to grow if it is healthy...If a church is not growing it is dying...**"



Abundant Blessings

Almost 400 years ago, a hundred and two people boarded a ship in England and set sail for America. Leaving behind everything they knew—homes, jobs, friends, everything familiar—they crowded into the Mayflower and endured meager conditions during the long crossing. Once they arrived, things weren't much better. It was winter, food was scarce, disease was rampant . . . How would you have felt?

Some Pilgrims certainly wanted to give up and return to England. But at the same time, they knew God had led them to their new land, and they trusted him. The following spring, God blessed them with a partnership with the Native Americans, who taught the Pilgrims how to plant corn and fertilize it by putting fish in the ground with the seeds. All summer, the settlers worked, growing food and building houses. When fall came, they were blessed with a great harvest, and to celebrate God's goodness, they had a feast—a thanksgiving feast. It was the first Thanksgiving, and the celebration lasted for three days!

Like those long-ago English Christians, we have struggles, too. People we love get sick. Economies weaken. Plans go awry. We feel lonely or afraid. Regardless of the troubles we face, God loves us. He always gives us exactly what we need. His Word promises, "God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19).

God may not always eliminate our struggles, but he promises to stay with us through any trial. He will always help us, come what may. God loves us so much that he sent his own Son, Jesus, to die for us, taking our sins away. It was exactly what we needed, struggling as we were in sin. Knowing of that great gift and sacrifice, we can trust that our Lord knows our needs—and provides. Thanks be to God!



TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Say Thanks! Bible Quiz Fill in the blanks.



1. This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and _____
2. In _____ give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.
3. Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you _____
4. O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good: for his mercy _____.
5. We give _____ to God always for you all, making mention of you in our _____;
6. Giving _____ unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;
7. For where your _____ is, there will your _____ be also.
8. Thanks [be] unto God for his _____.
9. Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by _____ and _____ with _____ let your requests be made known unto God.
10. Continue in _____, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;

GOT JOKES!

"A little boy . . . declared he wanted a haircut. 'How would you like it cut, son?' asked the barber. 'Like Grandpa's . . . real short . . . with a hole in the top.'"



"You mean we have to thank God for mud pies?"



Test Your Knowledge Answers

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| 1. Psalms 118:24 | 6. Ephesians 5:20 |
| 2. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 | 7. Matthew 6:21 |
| 3. Ephesians 1:16 | 8. 2 Corinthians 9:15 |
| 4. Psalms 107:1 | 9. Philippians 4:6 |
| 5. 1 Thessalonians 1:2 | 10. Colossians 4:2 |