

November 19 & 20, 2016

A GRATEFUL LIFE

Worship Team Today
Greeting/Welcome
Worship Team Come To The River
Made New
Message Pastor Jay Bruner
Offering/Announcements/Dismissal

Making It Personal

“Let your lives overflow with joy and thanksgiving (grateful) for all He has done.” Colossians 2:7 (TLB)

A Personal Act of “A Grateful Life”

As for Philip, an angel of the Lord said to him, “Go south down the desert road that runs from Jerusalem to Gaza.” So he started out, and he met the treasurer of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under the Kandake, the queen of Ethiopia. The eunuch had gone to Jerusalem to worship, and he was now returning. Seated in his carriage, he was reading aloud from the book of the prophet Isaiah. The Holy Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and walk along beside the carriage.” Philip ran over and heard the man reading from the prophet Isaiah. Philip asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” The man replied, “How can I, unless someone instructs me?”

And he urged Philip to come up into the carriage and sit with him. The passage of Scripture he had been reading was this: “He was led like a sheep to the slaughter. And as a lamb is silent before the shearers, he did not open his mouth. He was humiliated and received no justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth.” The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, was the prophet talking about himself or someone else?” So beginning with this same Scripture, Philip told him the Good News about Jesus. As they rode along, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “Look! There’s some water! Why can’t I be baptized?” He ordered the carriage to stop, and they went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up

*out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away. The eunuch never saw him **again but went on his way rejoicing.** Acts 8:26-39 (NLT)*

How to “personally” express my gratitude - Get Baptized.

What is Baptism?

1. It’s an act of gratitude and love.

As they rode along, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “Look! There’s some water! Why can’t I be baptized?” He ordered the carriage to stop, and they went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. Acts 8:36-38 (NLT)

2. It’s an act of unity and identification. (with Christ, and Christ’s family)

And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes. There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:27-28 (NLT)

3. It’s the physical/spiritual act of rebirth and the starting of a new life.

Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death? For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives...We are no longer slaves to sin. For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin. Romans 6:3-7 (NLT)

Going deeper on your own. Read Acts 8:26-39 and answer the following questions. Have you ever believed in Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord? If not, why not? Do it today. Have you ever been baptized; if so, when and where? What did baptism mean to you? Baptism brings a new life of joy. That new life drives us to tell others. Have you ever shared about your baptism with anyone else; if not, why not? If you have, this week during your thanksgiving celebration, tell someone about when you were baptized and what it meant to you. If you have not been baptized, do it the next chance you can. We will be having baptisms at each service on December 3 & 4. Come and be baptized.