



FRANKLIN ROAD

baptist church

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NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 14, 2016

NO GRATE!



CAN YOU IMAGINE DRIVING IN TOWN AND SUDDENLY FINDING THE STORM GRATE OR MAN HOLE COVER IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET MISSING? YOU WOULD NEED TO SUDDENLY SWERVE TO KEEP FROM HITTING THE OPEN AND DANGEROUS DRAIN. AND HAVEN'T YOU WALKED DOWN A CITY STREET AND COME TO ONE OF THOSE OLD METAL COVERS OR GRATES AND EITHER WALKED AROUND OR CAREFULLY OVER IT, SINCE YOU AREN'T SURE IF IT IS SAFE. NO GRATE OR AN INSUFFICIENT ONE IS VERY DISCOMFORTING. THERE SHOULD BE GRATES!

AND YET ONE SIGN OF OUR TIMES IS NO GRATE OR MORE SPECIFICALLY, NO GRATEFULNESS. PAUL WRITING TO TIMOTHY SAID THAT IN THE LAST DAYS PERILOUS TIMES WILL COME WHEN MEN WILL BE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, UNTHANKFUL. (SEE II TIMOTHY 3: 1-2). JESUS ALSO EXPERIENCED INGRATITUDE. AFTER HEALING TEN LEPERS LUKE 17:15-16 SAYS, "NOW ONE OF THEM, WHEN HE SAW THAT HE HAD BEEN HEALED, TURNED BACK, GLORIFYING GOD WITH A LOUD VOICE, AND HE FELL ON HIS FACE AT HIS FEET, GIVING THANKS TO HIM. AND HE WAS A SAMARITAN." JESUS WONDERED ABOUT THE OTHERS, "WERE THERE NOT TEN CLEANSED? BUT THE NINE-- WHERE ARE THEY? (LUKE 17:17).

I HOPE CHRIST DOESN'T HAVE TO WONDER ABOUT OUR WORSHIPFUL PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING. MIGHT WE "ENTER HIS GATES WITH THANKSGIVING AND HIS COURTS WITH PRAISE. GIVE THANKS TO HIM, BLESS HIS NAME. FOR THE LORD IS GOOD; HIS LOVINGKINDNESS IS EVERLASTING AND HIS FAITHFULNESS TO ALL GENERATIONS." (PSALM 100:4-5).

THIS THANKSGIVING SEASON LET US REMEMBER TO GIVE THANKS TO GOD. "O COME, LET US SING FOR JOY TO THE LORD, LET US SHOUT JOYFULLY TO THE ROCK OF OUR SALVATION. LET US COME BEFORE HIS PRESENCE WITH THANKSGIVING, LET US SHOUT JOYFULLY TO HIM WITH PSALMS." (PSALM 95:1-2). OH THAT WE WOULD "GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD FOR HIS LOVINGKINDNESS, AND FOR HIS WONDERS TO THE SONS OF MEN!" MIGHT WE ALSO "OFFER SACRIFICES OF THANKSGIVING, AND TELL OF HIS WORKS WITH JOYFUL SINGING." (SEE PSALM 107:21-22) BECAUSE OF OUR SALVATION AND SITUATION IN CHRIST, "LET US CONTINUALLY OFFER UP A SACRIFICE OF PRAISE TO GOD, THAT IS, THE FRUIT OF LIPS THAT GIVE THANKS TO HIS NAME." (HEBREWS 13:15).

NO GRATITUDE, NO GRATEFULNESS, NO GRATE! IT IS SERIOUS AND DANGEROUS WHEN WE AS MATERIALISTIC MEN AND WOMEN BEGIN TO MARVEL AND REVEL IN ALL THAT WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED AND ACCUMULATED WITHOUT GIVING THANKS TO GOD. DON'T GO "GRATE-LESS."

LOOKING UP,
PASTOR CHUCK CIRCLE