

## Trends

According to Barna 61% of UK adults believe "Jesus was a real person who actually lived." However, only 22% believe Jesus was "God in human form who lived among people in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century." And, only 44% believe in Jesus' resurrection, while only 26% believe "the resurrection happened word-for-word as described in the Bible."

**John 1:1-2:** "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God."

**Romans 1:3-4:** "Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, 4 and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead."

## Sentence Sermons

"Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see."

—Mark Twain

**Ephesians 4:32:** "And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you."

## News & Notes

Please pray for those mentioned in the announcements after services and others listed on the bulletin board in the foyer of the church building.

Please be sure to pray for all the needy saints. Be sure to pray for all the members at Westside! Please pray for the Ferrell family in Michigan. In previous Words of Life I informed the brethren about Susan Ferrell and her illness with a brain tumor. This week Shawn, Susan's husband, told me Susan has had a difficult time with the chemo and radiation treatments. Due to a low platelet count she had to have several blood transfusions and discontinue the chemo and radiation treatments. Please continue to pray for Susan, Shawn and their three boys: Samuel, Micah, and Eli.

Let us keep Virginia, Lana, Trudy and Phil in our prayers as they grieve over the passing of Bill McGinnis. Check in and see if you can provide any assistance.

"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." (James 5:16)

If you know of any in need of our prayers please let us know so we can include them in the announcements and/or put their name on the bulletin board.

Please continue to remember Wilma Cardwell in your prayers. Also, remember all the faithful preachers and brethren laboring in difficult places (e.g., Philippines, India, Zimbabwe). There are many needy saints! Can you help? Let me know.

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**Times of Service:** Bible Study, Sunday 9:30 AM and Wednesday 7:00 PM; Worship, Sunday 10:30 AM and 5:00 PM

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Please direct questions and comments to the editor.

# Words of Life

Westside  
church of Christ

"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

John 6:68



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## The Five Greatest Facts of Life

Craig Thomas

In the hectic pace of modern life it is easy to forget the most important facts of life. Dwight Eisenhower said, "I have found that the most urgent things in life are rarely important and that the most important things in life are rarely urgent." Please carefully consider the five most important facts of life that are both vitally important and very urgent for us to learn.

1) **Life Is Brief.** The Bible says, "For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away." (Jas. 4:14). Do you take life for granted? Do you, like most, live your life as if you're going to live forever? The wise man said, "The days of our lives are seventy years; And if by reason of strength they are eighty years, Yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; For it is soon cut off, and we fly away...So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom." (Psa. 90:10, 12). Do you live as if you've learned this great fact of life?

2) **Death Is Certain.** I once knew an 85-year old man who wanted to borrow money on a 30-year note. We laugh, but do we live recognizing that we don't get out of life alive? Sir Francis Bacon once said, "Death is a friend of ours; and he that is not ready to entertain him is not at home." Are you mentally "at home"? Do you realize the Bible says, "it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment"? (Heb. 9:27) Do you live as if you've learned this great fact of life?

3) **Judgment Is Sure.** Jesus tells us everyone will be at the final judgment! (cf. Matt. 25:31-33) That's you, that's me, that's everyone! All will be judged by the "righteous judge" (2 Tim. 4:8) according to God's word (Jn. 12:48). We will also be judged by our "deeds" (Rom. 2:5-10) and that judgment will be final! (2 Thess. 1:7-9) Is it any wonder when Solomon ended his search for wisdom he concluded, "Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil." (Eccl. 12:13-14) Do you live as if you've learned this great fact of life?

4) **Eternity Is Long.** Eternity is a hard concept for creatures bound by the fetters of time to understand. Even Webster has difficulty; he defines it as “infinite time.” “Infinite time” is an oxymoron! By its very definition time begins and ends, eternity doesn’t. Jesus said the lost will go into “*everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.*” (Matt. 25:46) When we’ve been in heaven 10,000 years we’ve no less time to spend there than when we first began. The same is true of hell. Do you live as if you’ve learned this great fact of life?

5) **Preparation Is Necessary.** Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people. We’ll never make it there by accident! We are saved by God’s grace “*through faith*” (Eph. 2:8). This “*faith*” must be an obedient faith (Jas. 2:14-26; Heb. 5:9); otherwise it is “*dead*”! Do you live as if you’ve learned this great fact of life?

We all need to exam ourselves (2 Cor. 13:5) and ask ourselves, “Have I really learned the five greatest facts of life?” If the answer is “no,” we had better learn them quick! If the answer is “yes,” then we are fools unless we apply this crucial knowledge to our daily living.

### “But Where Are the Nine?”

R. J. Evans

“So Jesus answered and said, ‘Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine?’” (Luke 17:17).

All too often, when someone performs a deed of kindness for us, our attitude is that we expected it from them—it was their duty. In other words, “You owed me that (whatever has been done or given), therefore, it was not necessary for me to have been grateful and express my sincere thanks.” Is this our attitude? Obviously, this kind of attitude is reflected if we fail to express our gratitude for the kind deeds others have shown toward us. If this disposition of heart describes any of us, it is spoken to our shame. I’m sure some of you ladies have prepared meals for the family of someone who was sick, and never received an acknowledgment of thanks. Then you begin to wonder: “Did they not like the food? Did they just forget to say anything?” There are a number of means of expressing special thanks, one of which is sending a card or note. Surely, it doesn’t take much time, effort, or expense to sit down and write a note of thanks for a kind deed that someone has done for us. This is something that parents can begin teaching their children at a very young age—the need to be grateful, not only in word, but also in deed.

It seems that the lack of gratitude has always been a problem. When Jesus healed the ten lepers, only one man was grateful enough to return and thank Him for his healing. The record says, “*Now one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. So Jesus answered and said, ‘Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine?’*” (Lk. 17:15-17). Only one of those who received the healing showed gratitude. All ten were ready to receive a blessing; all cried for mercy;

but nine were not concerned about giving praise and thanksgiving. Many today are much like those nine lepers.

Thus, when you do good and give to others, don’t be surprised if you receive no more gratitude than did the Lord from the nine lepers. And that is not being cynical; that is just being realistic. But also remember that you are not doing a good deed so that you might be thanked—you are doing it because you care and want to help as Jesus did. He did, however, notice their ungratefulness and made mention of it.

A failure in expressing thanksgiving for the blessings enjoyed in this life gives evidence of the alienation of man from God—“*because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful...*” (Rom. 1:21; see 2 Tim. 3:2). On the other hand, the Christian, realizing what God has done for him, and who appreciates what others have done for him, continually lifts his heart unto God with a spirit of gratitude and thanksgiving. Paul sums it up by saying “*in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you*” (1 Thess. 5:18). May we never so live as to be like those men who were so ungrateful that caused our Lord to ask: “*But where are the nine?*”

### Needs

There remain many brethren in need of your help. For example, faithful gospel preachers in the U.S. and foreign lands are in dire need of financial support. They and their families faithfully labor in the gospel and suffer from material deprivations due to their stand for the truth, concern for the soul’s of men and love for the Lord and His Christ. Other brethren are in acute need of the basics of life (food, clothing, shelter, medical attention). On the other hand many members of the Lord’s church enjoy all the economic advantages offered by America: a lavish lifestyle with large, well-furnished, well-heated/cooled and comfortable homes; vacations; recreational vehicles; widescreen HD/satellite TV; the latest iPads/iPods/PDA’s/smartphones, a trendy wardrobe, and a new, shiny SUV in the driveway. Meanwhile these brethren make sacrifices many of us cannot even imagine. Judgment is coming! 2 Corinthians 5:10: “*For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.*” Please don’t sit idly by and not help these dedicated brethren as they seek to save the lost! If we ignore them, how will we answer the Lord on that Great Day? If you would like to help please send me an e-mail (craigthomas82000@gmail.com) and I’ll put you in contact with a needy brother. Remember 1 John 3:16-17!

“But whoever has this world’s goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?”

1 John 3:17