

THANK YOU (Children's Edition)

For the past couple of weeks, we have given honor to all of the men and women in our congregation. "Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, *Cease not to give thanks for you*, making mention of you in my prayers" (Ephesians 1:15-16, emphasis mine). This article will offer thanksgiving for the children of the congregation. Sadly, it is the case that children are not given the credit for which they are so greatly deserving. The denominational world, as well as liberals in our own brotherhood, have bowed to the god of entertainment and have neglected the Spiritual needs of their children. Among many, gymnasiums, playgrounds, "Trunk-or-Treats," etc. have taken top priority in training children rather than simple lessons of truth from God's Word. Many have relegated the Church, for which Christ died, to a modern Children's Day Care. Though our children need to enjoy their childhood, it is not the role of the Church to entertain kids. Many have unfortunately and disgracefully followed Presidential Candidate Hillary Clinton's adage that it takes a village to raise a child. God said it takes two God-fearing parents to raise a child (Ephesians 6:1-3). The local congregation can be an aid to that process by offering Bible Classes tailored for each child's age group, but it is the job of the home to raise children.

Children deserve much more than a part-time baby-sitter from the members of the Lord's body. Jesus honored the innocence and humility of children when he commanded that His followers should practice the same temperament.

And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me (Matthew 18:3-5).

Therefore, children are worthy of our thanksgiving. The greatest way to show forth our gratitude to our children is not by entertaining them, rather, it is by teaching them how they can be pleasing to God and go to Heaven one sweet day. Members are to be good examples to our young people, teaching them how to behave themselves as young men and women (Titus 2:1-7).

Thank You, **Jacie Caldwell**, for being a sweet young lady. Thank you for being a good helper to your mother and father, as well as to Mrs. Martha. Thank you for your attention to your Bible studies.

Thank You, **Matthew Carver**, for being a good example to the other children. Thank you for singing during worship and for paying attention during the sermon. Thank you for studying your Bible lessons and for becoming a young man and for reminding me that the "Bengals Stink!" (everyday).

Thank You, **Rebecca Carver**, for singing joyfully during our worship services. Thank you for your love of the song, "There's A Fountain Free," and for edifying us all when you sing the

chorus. Thank you for always dressing nicely and for working hard on your Bible lessons.

Thank You, **Daniel Carver**, for dressing so nice for services and for wearing a tie on Sunday morning. Thank you for being good and sitting quietly during worship services. Thank you for doing such a good job on your Bible Class lessons and for leading prayer in your class.

Thank You, **Joshua Carver**, for sitting in our assembly and reminding us of our responsibilities to our youth. Thank you for being the future of the Lord's Church.

Thank You, **Ella Green**, for being my niece. Thank you for overcoming some early adversities to become such a beautiful little girl. Thank you for sitting in our assembly and reminding us of innocence and purity.

Thank You, **Russell Hatcher**, for always bringing your Bible to services. Thank you for obeying your parents and being well-behaved. Thank you for letting me know when we are done with services.

Our children are made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27) and should be treated with the respect deserving of such. Thank you to our parents and mothers-to-be. It is likely that, in the not-so-distant future, our congregation will be humming with the lively sounds of newborns. We all pray to that end and we pray that God continue to bless this congregation so that we can be the examples they need in order to become faithful servants to Him.

– *Brad Green*