later, He rose from the dead. Through Christ's death and resurrection, God has completely provided for our eternal salvation.

When we simply believe that "Christ died for our sins…and that He rose again" (1 Cor. 15:3-4), we are saved and given eternal life as a free gift (Rom. 6:23).

This Thanksgiving, as we consider all that God has given us, may we remember His greatest gift—salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ—which gives us the assurance of heaven! One valuable word that should continually rise from our grateful hearts to God is "Thanks!"

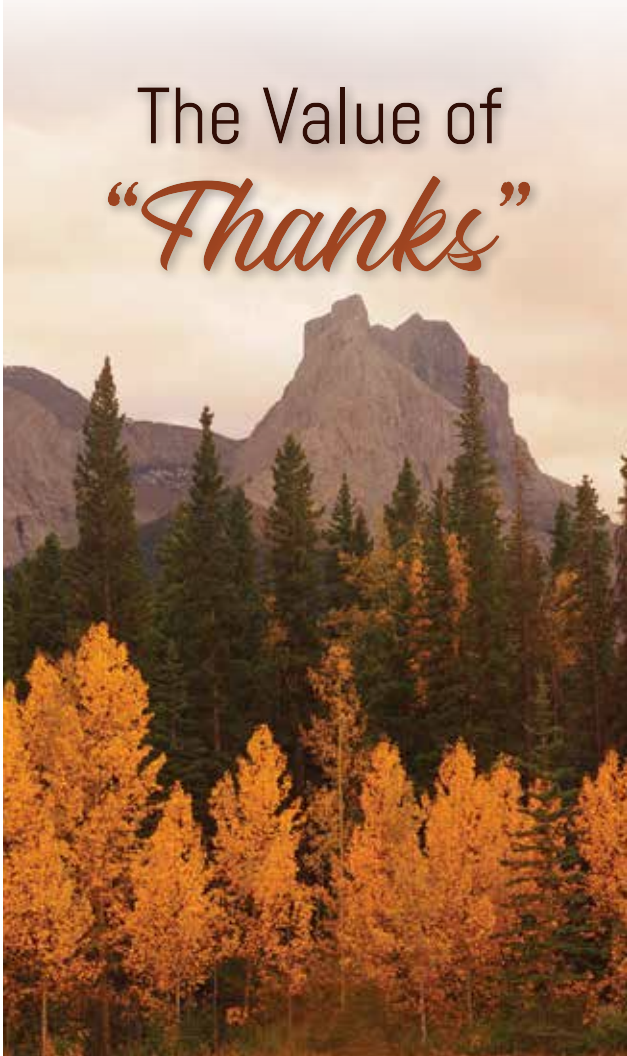
—Pastor Kevin Sadler

1. Ken Weliever, "Word of the Week: Thanks," ThePreachersWord, November 21, 2016, https://thepreachersword.com/2016/11/21/word-of-the-week-thanks-2/.

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# The Value of "Thanks"



# The Value of "*Thanks*"

"Rudyard Kipling was a great British poet, novelist and short story writer in the late 19th and early 20th centuries....

"Hoping for a story, a newspaper reporter once approached him and said, 'Mr. Kipling. I just read that somebody calculated that the money you made from your writings amounts to over $100 a word.'

"Kipling raised his eyebrows and said, 'Really, I certainly wasn't aware of that.'

"The reporter reached into his pocket and pulled out a $100 bill and gave it to Kipling and cynically said, 'Here's a $100 bill Mr. Kipling. Now give me one of your $100 words.'

"Kipling looked at the $100 bill for a moment, took it, folded it up, put it in his pocket and said, 'Thanks.'"[1]

"Thanks" really is a valuable word. And according to the Bible, it is a word that ought to characterize our relationship with God: "It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD..." (Psa. 92:1).

In everyday life, we thank people when they show us kindness. If someone holds the door for us, gives us a gift, or does us a favor, we naturally say, "Thank you." Our thanks acknowledges their kindness and expresses our appreciation for what they have done.

If it is right to thank others for the kindness they show us, how much more should we thank God for all He has done for us? No one has given us more, and no one deserves our gratitude more than God.

James 1:17 tells us, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above." Every good thing we have ultimately comes from God. The food on our tables, the air we breathe, and the life we enjoy are all gifts from His hand (Acts 17:25).

The greatest thing God has done for us, however, is what He accomplished at the Cross. Jesus Christ bore all our sins and paid their penalty in full (2 Cor. 5:21). Three days