

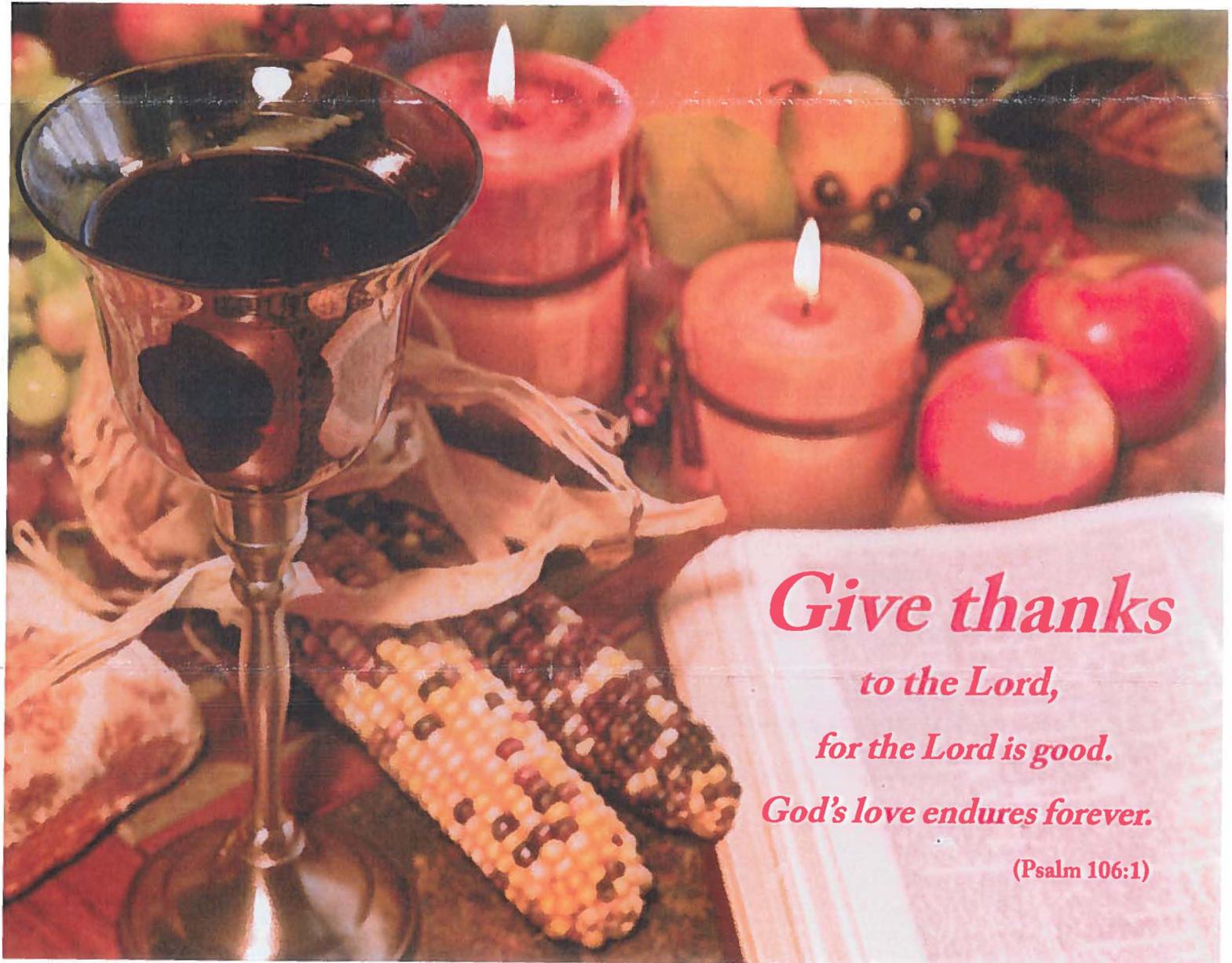
# CHRISTIAN HERALD

WASHINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Vol. 717 Number 717

Rev. Laddie J. Benton

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER



*Give thanks*

*to the Lord,*

*for the Lord is good.*

*God's love endures forever.*

*(Psalm 106:1)*

**From the Pastor's Desk**  
**The Rev. Laddie J. Benton**

***"We Are Singing a New Song to the LORD"***

*The earth is the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof;  
the world, and they that dwell therein.*  
(Psalm 24: 1 – King James Version)

On October 3, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln delivered his "Thanksgiving Proclamation" declaring the last Thursday in November as a national day of thanksgiving and praise. In part, Mr. Lincoln stated..."I do, therefore, invite my fellow-citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November as a day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens." Lincoln's "Thanksgiving Proclamation" is the reason that Americans observe "Thanksgiving Day" as a national day of thanksgiving and praise to God.

Recently, I was discarding some old papers and came across an article written by Mussa Benton. The article is entitled ***Giving Thanks...*** Mussa was a writer for the Reading High School news letter – *The Red and Black – The Voice of the Students*. I have taken the liberty of sharing this article with you, because it presents a high school student's view of the meaning of "Thanksgiving Day.":

**Giving Thanks...**

*by Mussa Benton*

"Nationally Thanksgiving is an American holiday celebrated annually to remember the first successful colony of the Pilgrims. The Pilgrims were given farming and survival tips during a time of peace, which lasted two generations, with the Native Americans in the area. At harvest, the two nations united and gave thanks to their god and shared fellowship (nice concept). Ask yourself if you would like to spend time sharing your Thanksgiving with a different culture. If so, talk to some friends or visit hospitals and missions; you just might find out what they meant by 'thanksgiving.'

Some families celebrate with a turkey and stuffing with mashed potatoes and pumpkin pie, some wouldn't miss pigs' feet and chitlins for all the turkey in the world. Still, there are those who wouldn't trade a nice bowl of rice and beans for the year's best hot apple pie.

Thanksgiving is an American tradition, but America has many different-colored 'bricks', that serve as a foundation. With these 'bricks,' there is something new to taste or experience: a dance in the moonlight, or dinner in another culture's kitchen. Whatever this Thanksgiving could be for you, don't let something new pass you by."

***O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good:  
for his mercy endureth for ever.***  
(Psalm 107: 1 – King James Version)

Your Brother in Christ,

  
Rev. Laddie J. Benton, pastor

**STAND UP FOR JESUS!**  
**STAND UP FOR WPC!**

## SICK, SHUT-INS AND BEREAVED FAMILIES

Harold and Pauline Jackson, Margie Walker, Joan Marshall, Alex Auston, Jordan Johnson, Donald Lewis, Faith Morrison, Nathan and Marquise Phelps, Jean Rudolph, Sharon, Davis Kim Scott, Alfreda Overton, John Fletcher, Feleicha Davis, LaKeshia Green, and family, Demerik Weglinski-Benton, Teondre' Morrison-Cooper, Aaron Randall, Damien Randall, Stephen Randall, William (Tune) Davis, Janet Arms, Ruth Jenkins (Barbara Davis' mother), Rafaella (April's granddaughter), Sylvia Winfrey, Jean Nelson, Ann Conboy, Joseph Cooper,, Claudette Carter (Alberta's daughter), Lada Key, Katrina Boykin, (Joan Reppert's niece), Brian Ellison, Doris Appling, Alix Gregro, Bea Beverly, and daughters Nina and Joyce, Anne Lennox, Edward Randall (Blair's dad), John Haynes Persis Owens (member of Joan Reppert's extended family), Viola Jefferson, Freida Carter, Denise Wilson, Vivian Key Barbara Davis, Joan Bates, Christine Gottschall, Loret and Ronald Settle (NC), Paul Owens, Rev. Leroy Bailey and Rev. Bernice Bailey's mother and Thomas Schleifer.

### PRAYER FOR THE BEREAVED:

The families of Daniel Lee, Dr. Robert Greenberg, George Stamm (Keith's father) and Jean Nelson.

### SCRIPTURES:

November 6	Psalm 61:1-8	Daniel 9:3-6	Philippians 4:4-7
November 13	Psalm 96:1-9	Isaiah 26:1-6	Hebrews 11:1-3
November 20	Psalm 33:1-9	2 Chronicles 7:1-3	Philippians 4:10-13
November 27	Psalm 24:1-10	Isaiah 64:1-9	1 Corinthians 1:3-9

### STANDING COMMITTEES

Christian Concerns—Sharon Davis  
Christian Education—Alexis Green  
Evangelism—Yvonne Lewis  
Finance—Toni Brooks  
Property—Stephen Greer  
Stewardship—Sharon Davis/Yvonne Lewis  
Worship Committee—Pauline Johnson/Alexis Green

### BIBLE STUDY Wednesday 6:30 PM

### LECTIONARY READINGS

Joshua 24:1-3a  
Judges 4:1-7  
Ezekiel 34:11-16  
Isaiah 64:1-9

### SESSION

Pastor—Rev. Laddie J. Benton  
Clerk of Session—Oliver Carter  
Church Treasurer—Toni Brooks  
Benevolence Treasure—Oliver Carter  
Club Fund Treasurer—Winnie J Burden

### ORGANIZATION

Men's Fellowship Oliver Carter  
Pastor's Aid—Toni Brooks/Winnie Burden  
Personnel—Stephen Greer  
Presbyterian Women—Alexis Green/LaKeshia Green  
Sunday School—Sharon Davis

### CHOIR REHEARSAL

Senior Choir Thursday 6:00 P M—Director—Mrs Janet Arms  
Children Choir Sunday (after Church Service)—Director—William Kinkaid

### REBA TEMPLETON ENRICHMENT CENTER Resumes in September

Activities include Reading Comprehension, Computer Skills, Problem Solving, Journalism, Fun Crafts and Games.

# November 2011

\* Denotes Birthdays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		November 1  <b>All Saints' Day</b>	2  <b>All Souls' Day</b>	3 Senior Choir Rehearsal	4	5 Enrichment Center 9:00 AM-12:00 Noon
6 <b>Daylight Saving Time Ends</b>  10:00 AM Sunday Service	7	8  <b>Election Day</b>	9 Bible Study - 9:30 AM Midweek Svc.-12:45 PM Bible Study - 6:30 PM	10 Senior Choir Rehearsal	11 <b>Alfreda Overton *</b> <b>Lillie Foster *</b> <b>Rachel Randall *</b> <b>Thomas Fruit *</b>  <b>Veterans' Day</b>	12 Enrichment Center 9:00 AM-12:00 Noon  <b>Nathaniel Mitchell *</b>
13  10:00 AM Sunday Service	14 <b>Darius Johnson *</b>	15	16 Bible Study - 9:30 AM Midweek Svc.-12:45 PM Bible Study - 6:30 PM	17 Senior Choir Rehearsal	18	19 Enrichment Center 9:00 AM-12:00 Noon  Berks Heim-Family Get Together
20  10:00 AM Sunday Service Joash Chest	21  Session meets-7:30PM	22	23 Bible Study - 9:30 AM Midweek Svc.-12:45 PM Bible Study - 6:30 PM	24  <b>Thanksgiving</b>	25	26
27  First Sunday of Advent  10:00 AM Sunday Service	28	29	30 <b>Alex Auston *</b>			

# Spicy Dal & Carrot Soup

This delicious, warming and nutritious soup includes a selection of spices to give it a 'kick'. It is simple to make and extremely good to eat.

## NUTRITIONAL INFORMATION

Calories	.....173	Sugars	.....11g
Protein	......9g	Fat	......5g
Carbohydrate	...24g	Saturates	.....1g



10 MINS

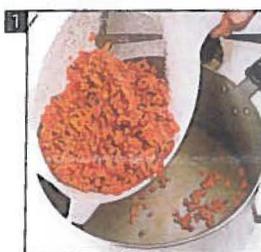


50 MINS

SERVES 6

## INGREDIENTS

- 4½ oz split red lentils
- 5 cups vegetable stock
- 12 oz carrots, peeled and sliced
- 2 onions, peeled and chopped
- 1 x 9 oz can chopped tomatoes
- 2 garlic cloves, peeled and chopped
- 2 tbsp vegetable ghee or oil
- 1 tsp ground cumin
- 1 tsp ground coriander
- 1 fresh green chili, seeded and chopped, or use 1 tsp minced chili (from a jar)
- ½ tsp ground turmeric
- 1 tbsp lemon juice
- salt
- 1¼ cups skimmed milk
- 2 tbsp chopped fresh cilantro
- yogurt, to serve



**1** Place the lentils in a strainer and wash well under cold running water. Drain and place in a large saucepan with 3½ cups of the vegetable stock, the carrots, onions, tomatoes and garlic. Bring the mixture to a boil, reduce the heat, cover, and simmer for 30 minutes.

**2** Meanwhile, heat the ghee or oil in a small pan, add the cumin, coriander, chili and turmeric and fry gently for 1 minute.

**3** Remove from the heat and stir in the lemon juice and salt to taste.

**4** Purée the soup in batches in a blender or food processor. Return the soup to the saucepan, add the spice

mixture, and the remaining 1¼ cups stock or water and simmer for 10 minutes.

**5** Add the milk to the soup and adjust the seasoning according to taste.

**6** Stir in the chopped cilantro and reheat gently. Serve hot, with a swirl of yogurt.

## THANK YOU, FATHER

Father God, it is the month of a beautiful holiday, we call it Thanksgiving. We think of getting together with family and eating a big dinner and watching football. But God it is so much more than that.

Once more we need You to help us to see what we need to be doing to enrich our lives with and in You. We so easily forget that if it were not for You and all that You do and all that You give us there would be no Thanksgiving Day and nothing at all to celebrate. So, Lord Jesus, help us to remember all or at least some of the things You've done or given to us for which we need to take time to thank You for.

Father, first of all, we thank You for You; for loving us so greatly, You don't get mad at us when we deliberately do the very thing You've told us was wrong or an abomination to You. Your forgiveness, long suffering and grace is more than we can comprehend and yet, You are always there for us Father, we thank You.

We look at the parents You gave us. They put up with our shenanigans, our disobedience, laughed at our silliness, dolled us up for proms and stuff, fed us, clothed us, loved us any how, took us to church and Sunday School, and did all kinds of neat things with and for us. Lord God, we thank You for our parents.

Some of us have or had brothers and or sisters. Sometimes we fought with them, sometimes they were our best friends. Being kids and human too, we didn't always love them as we should have but we did grow up to realize it was a blessing to have a brother or a sister or two. Some of us don't have them with us any more because they are up there with You. We miss them, Lord. Thanks for letting us have them as long as we did.

Then, Lord, You decided we needed to learn to be a friend and to have friends. So you brought all kinds of people into our lives. What a mixture You gave us. They were big, small, every complexion there is, all nationalities, male, female and You taught us to love each other and we are friends. We can talk and laugh, sometimes we just share quiet times. Yes, You even let us travel together for vacations, seminars and such. Thank You Lord, but we are just beginning to think of all we are thankful for.

When we leave home we have so many means of transportation by which we can travel far or near. Jesus You've given us legs and feet and we can walk, some of us, long distances, some, not so far. Some of us have cars and can drive where we need or want to go, and we can even take others with us, or help others who don't have cars to get places. Then we have trains, buses, planes to go long distances and just for fun, You let us have skated, skate-boards, roller blades, and boards to ride the waves. You help us to have fun and enjoy ourselves.

Then Lord, You decide You only began to bless us, so You gave us eyes to see all the wonders You created for us to look at and enjoy and be filled with awe. Your trees of every kind, cedars, fruits, ever greens, flowers of every size, color and description, the sky—sunrise and sunset, clouds of all shapes, a pond, lake, the ocean, all Your creations! Lord, we never finish looking. We haven't begun with all the animals. We've more than we can do to see all the domestic animals, the various types of each bird. The exotic and wild stagger the imagination.

And that's another area in which we thank You, Father, our minds, our senses, Lord, how do we enumerate all the countless reasons we have to thank You? We ask You, please keep reminding us of Your goodness, mercy, and grace and keep us ever thankful.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

## THANKSGIVING

Our Pilgrim fathers  
Might have said  
That they deserved their daily bread,  
With swollen pride  
They might have thought  
That what they had, their hands had wrought.

They might have chosen  
To profess  
That by their wits they won success,  
They might have claimed  
It was their skill  
That helped their granaries to fill.

Instead, they humbly  
Knelt in prayer-  
The multitude that gathered there,  
And thanked the Lord  
For gifts that He  
Provided so abundantly.

By Ronald Eyrich

Every good gift and every perfect present comes from heaven.  
James 1:17

Submitted by: Alexis Green

MAY THE OUTWARD AND INWARD OF MAN BE AT ONE  
---SOCRATES

Submitted by: Alexis Green

## *Our Heavenly Bellhop?*

Recently a missionary friend told me the horrific story of finding her husband murdered several years ago. They had worked in Papua, New Guinea, for about 20 years translating the New Testament for people who had never had any part of the Bible in their own language. On the Thursday of her husband's death, the family began the day happily, looking forward to completing on that very day the first draft of the translation. Just one more run-through with their native partner, and the work would be done. Hours later my friend found her husband mortally wounded before the computer, the words of 1Corinthians 13 (the "love" chapter) showing on the screen before him. We struggle to reconcile such an event with scripture's many reassurances of God's care.

Does God promise to protect us? This missionary's story shows us that even those who give their entire life to God's work have no guarantee of safety. This is a difficult truth. We all want to believe that we are and will be safe. We want to believe that God will always protect us, those we love, all who believe and trust in the Lord.

Since my now-adult daughter was an infant, I have practiced the spiritual discipline of consciously committing her (and all those I love) to God, realizing that I cannot guarantee my own or another person's safety. Only God can always be there. Does this mean that God has shielded my daughter from all harm? Not at all. God does not promise that. Over and over, the Bible shows God not shielding people from difficulties and harm but staying with them during the storms life inevitably brings.

Some people say that being in God's care means we will have all that we need and much that we want. Some define abundant life (see John 10:10) as abundant possessions and success in all we attempt. They expect God to protect those they love and "claim" God's power for their business to succeed or to get their children into the right college or away from drugs. They pray for a good parking space or to find the right garment when the shop. Such theology makes God into little more than a heavenly bellhop, someone who can help us with our baggage and in general make life easier for us. This is not to say that we are wrong to come to God with our concerns about daily life. After all, Jesus taught us to pray for "our daily bread." God is concerned with all that concerns us. But this does not mean we will have what we want or that nothing bad will happen to us.

After every disaster, television news reporters interview survivors. I flinch when, as almost always happens, people say they were spared because God was watching out for them. Extending this way of thinking would mean that others did not pray or that God was not watching out for those who were killed or who lost homes, businesses, and family members. And yet we also say that our loving God was and is there, with each one of them, weeping with those who were terrified and holding those who were injured as the died.

So what shall we do? Is it wrong to pray for God to protect us and those we love? Of course not. Matthew tells us that God knows the number of hairs on our head (Matt. 10:30), so we know that God is concerned about the details of our life. We can trust that God is always with us and will never leave us or forsake us...God is our faithful friend, and God does not want harm to come to anyone. But we live in a world where danger and loss are real. If a believer jumps off of a building, God does not suspend the law of gravity; if a bus is speeding toward us, God does not change the laws of physics to stop the bus or alter its course. Nevertheless, the one called our refuge and our shield, our rock, our light, our salvation, never leaves us to face the dangers of the world alone. God is with us in every storm, faithful and close, regardless of what happens to us...Sometimes we are safe, and sometimes we suffer great harm. Either way, we are in God's unflinching care.

## A THOUGHT TO PONDER

### Verse of the Month

But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them,  
just as he wanted them to be. 1 Corinthians 12:18

The task Your wisdom has assigned,  
O let me cheerfully fulfill;  
In all my works Your presence find,  
And prove Your good and perfect will.

### PROVERBS 11:1-31

1 The Lord abhors dishonest scales, but accurate weights are His delight.

2 When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.

3 The integrity of the upright guides them, but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity.

4 Wealth is worthless in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death.

**“The day of wrath” refers to when we die or to the time when God settles accounts with all people. On judgment day, each of us will stand alone, accountable for all our deeds. At that time, no amount of riches will buy reconciliation with God. Only our love for God and obedience to Him will count. NIVLASB**

5 The righteousness of the blameless makes a straight way for them, but the wicked are brought down by their own wickedness.

6 The righteousness of the upright delivers them, but the unfaithful are trapped by evil desires.

7 When a wicked man dies, his hope perishes; all he expected from his power comes to nothing.

8 The righteous man is rescued from trouble, and comes on the wicked instead.

**These verses like 10:3 contrast two paths in life, but are intended to apply universally to all people in all circumstances. God’s people are not excluded from problems or struggles. If a person follows God’s wisdom, however, God can rescue him or her from trouble. But the wicked person will fall into his or her own traps. Even if good people suffer, they can be sure they will ultimately be rescued from eternal death. NIVLASB**

9 With his mouth the godless destroys his neighbor, but through knowledge the righteous escape.

**The mouth can be used either as a weapon or a tool, hurting relationships or building them up. Sadly, it is often easier to destroy than to build, and most people have received more destructive comments than those that build up. Every person you meet today is either a demolition site or a construction opportunity. Your words will make a difference. Will they be weapons for destruction or tools for construction? NIVLASB**

10 When the righteous prosper, the city rejoices; when the wicked perish, there are shouts of joy.

11 Through the blessings of the upright a city is exalted, but by the mouth of the wicked it is destroyed.

12 A man who lacks judgment derides his neighbor, but a man of understanding holds his tongue.

13 A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy man keeps a secret.

14 For a lack of guidance a nation falls, but many advisers make victory sure.

**A good leader needs and uses wise advisers. One person’s perspective and understanding is severely limited; he or she may not have all the facts or may be blinded by bias, emotions, or wrong impressions. To be a wise leader at home, at church, or at work, seek the counsel of others and be open to their advice. Then, after considering all the facts, make your decision. NIVLASB**

15 He who puts up security for another will surely suffer, but whoever refuses to strike hands in pledge is safe.

16 A kindhearted woman gains respect, but ruthless men gain only wealth.

17 A kind man benefits himself, but a cruel man brings trouble on himself

18 The wicked man earns deceptive wages, but he who sows righteousness reaps a sure reward.

19 The truly righteous man attains life, but he who pursues evil goes to his death.

**Righteous people attain life because they live life more fully each day. They also attain life because people live longer when they live right, with proper diet, exercise, and rest. In addition, they need not fear death because eternal life is God’s gift to them (John 11:25). By contrast, evil people not only find eternal death, but miss out on real life on earth. NIVLASB**

20 The Lord detests men of perverse heart but He delights in those whose ways are blameless.

21 Be sure of this: The wicked will not go unpunished, but those who are righteous will go free.

22 Like a gold ring in a pig’s snout is a beautiful woman who shows no discretion.

**Physical attractiveness without discretion soon wears thin. We are to seek those character strengths that help us make wise decisions, not just those that make us look good. Not everyone who looks good is pleasant to live or work with. While taking good care of our body and appearance is not wrong, we also need to develop our ability to think NIVLASB**

23 The desire of the righteous ends only in good, but the hope of the wicked only in wrath.

24 One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty.

25 A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.

**These two verses present a paradox: that we become richer by being generous. The world says to hold on to as much as possible, but God blesses those who give freely of their possessions, time, and energy. When we give, God supplies us with more so that we can give more. In addition, giving helps us gain a right perspective of our possessions. We realize they were never really ours to begin with, but they were given to us by God to be used to help others. What then do we gain by giving? Freedom from enslavement to our possessions, the joy of helping others, and God's approval. NIVLASB**

26 People curse the man who hoards gain, but blessing crowns him who is willing to sell.

27 He who seeks good finds goodwill, but evil comes to him who searches for it.

28 Whoever trusts in his riches will fail, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf.

29 He who brings trouble on his family will inherit only wind, and the fool will be servant to the wise.

**One of the greatest resources God gives us is the family. Families provide acceptance, encouragement, guidance, and counsel. Bringing trouble on your family—whether through anger or through an exaggerated desire for independence—is foolish because you cut yourself off from all they provide. In your family, strive for healing, communication, and understanding. NIVLASB**

30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise.

**A wise person is a model of a meaningful life. Like a tree attracts people to its shade, his or her sense of purpose attracts others who want to know how they too can find meaning. Gaining wisdom yourself, then, can be the first step in leading people to God. Leading people to God is important because it keeps us in touch with God while offering others eternal life. NIVLASB**

31 If the righteous receive their due on earth, How much more the ungodly and the sinner!

**Contrary to popular opinion, no one sins and gets away with it. The faithful are rewarded for their faith. The wicked are punished for their sins. Don't think for a moment that "it won't matter" or "nobody will know" or "we won't get caught" (see also 1 Peter 4:18). NIVLASB**

#### **ECCLESIASTES 11:1-6**

1 Cast your bread upon the waters, for after many days you will find it again.

2 Give portions of seven, yes to eight, for you do not know what disaster may come upon the land.

3 If clouds are full of water, they pour rain upon the earth. Whether a tree falls to the south or to the north, in the place where it falls, there will it lie.

4 Whoever watches the wind will not plant; whoever looks at the clouds will not reap.

5 As you do not know the path of the wind, or how the body is formed in a mother's womb, so you cannot understand the work of God, the Maker of all things.

**In these verses Solomon summarizes that life involves both risk and opportunity. Because life has no guarantees, we must be prepared. "Cast your bread upon the waters" means that life has opportunities and we must seize them, not merely play it safe. Solomon does not support a despairing attitude. Just because life is uncertain does not mean we should do nothing. We need a spirit of trust and adventure, facing life's risks and opportunities with God-directed enthusiasm and faith. NIVLASB**

**Waiting for perfect conditions will mean inactivity. This practical insight is specially applicable to our spiritual life. If we wait for the perfect time and place for personal Bible reading, we will never begin. If we wait for a perfect church, we will never join. If we wait for the perfect ministry, we will never serve. Take steps now to grow spiritually. Don't wait for conditions that may never exist. NIVLASB**

6 Sow your seed in the morning and at evening let not your hands be idle, for you do not know which will succeed, whether this or that, or whether both will do equally well.

There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole. There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin sick soul. Sometimes I feel discouraged, And think my work's in vain, But then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again. Don't ever feel discouraged, For Jesus is your friend, And if you lack for knowledge He'll not refuse to lend. If you can not preach like Peter, If you can not pray like Paul, You can tell the love of Jesus and say, "He died for all." There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole. There is a balm in Gilead to heal a sin sick soul.