

Sunday 24 August 2025



SERMON TOPIC: The glory of the vastness of Jesus' love
BIBLE TEXT: Ephesians 3: 14 - 21
PREACHER: Chris Pretorius
ELDER ON DUTY: Kasha Schubert
OFFERINGS:
1st Collection: The work of the Church
2nd Collection: CRCA Candidacy Committee

Thankfulness Is God's Will for You ~ Jonathan Landry Cruse

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

If it's true that thankfulness is the foundation for all Christian ethics, then the numerous Bible exhortations to be thankful at all times should come as no surprise to us. Beyond the above-quoted verse, Paul's desire is that we "[give] thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Eph. 5:20). Thankful always? Thankful for everything? Giving thanks in all circumstances? Who is possibly cut out for this?

We all know someone who seems to have a cheery disposition no matter what, someone on whom the sun always seems to be shining. At some point or another the persistent pleasantness may start to annoy us, because it just doesn't seem natural! At a low moment, you might permit yourself to think, Why can't they be as a grumpy as me?

But, in reality, we should admire this attitude. What might we do to better cultivate it ourselves? How can we live in faithful submission to the command of always and only thankfulness—especially in light of the troubles and sorrows of life that will inevitably come?

One of the most powerful correctives is to take to heart Paul's teaching here: Gratitude is "the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." Thankfulness, contentment, and happiness is something that God actually wants for you! What a God we serve! It brings him a smile to make me and you smile. So many people are desperate to know God's will in their lives, seeking answers and direction.

Well, here we have it: one of the few places in the Bible where God's will is explicitly spelled out for us. The direction he would have us walk is the way of joy, ceaseless communion with him, and constant thankfulness.

Simply knowing that the God of the universe has an invested desire that I be grateful changes my perspective. How about yours? He has charted this course for us through the gift of the gospel, having "blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing" (Eph. 1:3). When we survey our circumstances and we sense lack or disappointment, we must preach to ourselves the truth that God has given us everything in Jesus, so that we would be contentedly grateful (Rom. 8:32).

Reformer John Calvin wrote,

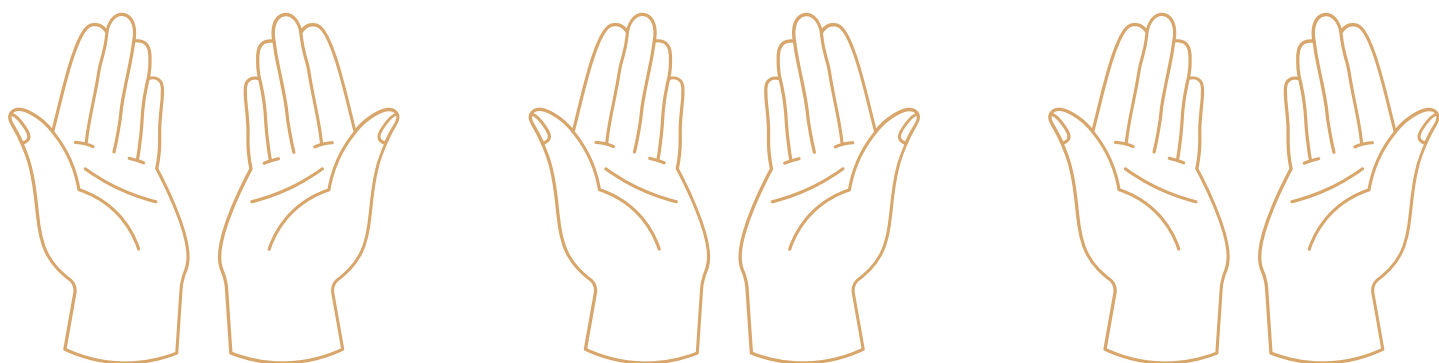
God has such a disposition towards us in Christ, that even in our afflictions we have large occasion of thanksgiving. For what is fitter or more suitable for pacifying us, than when we learn that God embraces us in Christ so tenderly, that he turns to our advantage and welfare everything that befalls us? Let us, therefore, bear in mind, that this is a special remedy for correcting our impatience—to turn away our eyes from beholding present evils that torment us, and to direct our views to a consideration of a different nature—how God stands affected towards us in Christ.¹

God's plan for you isn't to be disgruntled or disappointed. Grumpiness doesn't make it into glory. God's will—both his desire and his plan—is that we'll be joyful for eternity. God wants you to be grateful, and what God wants he gets.

For the here and now he has given us new hearts that are supernaturally equipped with a capacity for gratitude. And for the hereafter, we'll be so consumed with thankful praise that the thought of being anything less will be an absurdity.

Instead, we will sing: "Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen" (Rev. 7:2).

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Our Giving, an Act of Worship

In our Church we have two offerings every Sunday. The first goes toward the ministry of this congregation. The second offering goes toward various Christian causes. This week our second offering is for the CRCA Candidacy Committee.

If you would like to support the work of you can do so by in Church giving - simply add your offering to the bag at the back of Church or by bank transfer -

BSB 063-167. A/C 1015-8356

If using bank transfer please indicate whether it is for the first offering "Sun1" or second offering "Sun 2" in the reference line. Or you can give online via our Church app

<https://wpcrc.org.au/give>

This week's **PRAYER POINTS**

When first thy eyes unveil, give thy soul leave to do the like;
Our bodies but forerun the spirit's duty.
True hearts spread and heave unto their God, as flow'rs do to the sun.
Give him thy first thoughts then.
So shalt thou keep Him company all day, and in him sleep.

Henry Vaughan

Personal **PRAYER POINTS**

As we go into the coming week let us daily pray;

That we will get an ever deeper understanding of the love of God that drove
our Lord Jesus to the cross.

I pray that you, being rooted and firmly established in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the length and width, height and depth of God's love, and to know Christ's love that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. (Ephesians 3:17b-19 CSB)

Give praise and thanks to our God for his unfathomable love for us even as we continue to fall far short of his perfect standards.

Congregational **PRAYER POINTS**

Please continue to pray for Ben Palmer, pray that the Lord will continue to restore him back to full health and pray for Lauren as she walks this journey with him.

Please continue to pray for Chris and Gretchen Fourie as they struggle with various health issues, pray that the Lord will grant them healing.

Pray also for Phillip and Suzanne Nel as Suzanne struggles with Alzheimer's disease, pray for Phillip as he supports his wife under often trying circumstances.

Please continue to pray for our church, especially the election of elders, please pray that the Lord will move hearts to be responsive to his call.

Local & Global **PRAYER POINTS**

Please pray for our nation that the Lord will intervene so that we will once more seek to align ourselves with him.

Pray for the nations of the world as we seem to be hurtling towards disaster, pray that there will be genuine desire for peace among all the lands of the earth.

Please pray for our brothers and sisters in Afghanistan.

One of our Afghanistan field workers writes: "Darkness has cast its shadow over the skies of Afghanistan, bringing fear, terror, anxiety, insecurity, murder, and theft upon the people. But God has not abandoned His children in the darkness. Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the spirits of darkness.

And God has risen against these dark forces with great miracles, using His people through the power of the Holy Spirit to turn darkness into light and stand firm for the Lord."

In the last year or two, believers from several closed nations have gotten access to Afghanistan and in the middle of untold suffering, they see God working powerfully. They have focussed on the needs of the poor, abused, neglected and oppressed, and respond in Jesus' name. And at Back to Jerusalem, we are privileged to support their efforts. Children from poor families are particularly vulnerable, as the 'education' available to them under the Taliban is not designed to benefit their futures.

Our field worker writes: "No one knows what future awaits them under the Taliban's rule. They seek to take these children to jihadist training centres, where they will be taught Islamic laws, trained with weapons, and prepared for acts of terror and violence."

To counteract this bleak prospect, alternative education is set up in poor communities by our partners. There is much enthusiasm from parents, who often have never had the chance to be educated themselves. This is why along with educating the children, illiterate mothers and fathers are also trained in both reading and other basic skills that can help them better support their families.

As well as educating children, it is immensely important they can experience moments of joy and plenty. We received some beautiful footage of a field trip organised for these children. They could enjoy a playground and a wonderful picnic with special foods and snacks. One child commented "I wish we could always be this happy." Our fieldworker writes: "That day was more than a simple outing for them; it was a moment when they felt seen, loved, and could just be children without worries.

When the day ended and they boarded the bus back, they did not want this joy to end. But a hope had dawned in their hearts; a hope for the days when they would be able to experience moments like this again." They went on: "We pray and ask God to bless you our beloved supporters who made the children feel that there are still people who love them. This is the love of Christ that flows from you, our dear brothers and sisters."

Our field workers love and serve the poorest and share the gospel with those who have no hope. Many respond, but their work is dangerous.

Arrests are a constant possibility, both for them and the new believers. So, as well as continuing to support them, please also pray for protection and the courage to keep serving! ~ Back to Jerusalem

TERM 3 **2025**

SUPERDASH

25
JUL

SOCIAL : ESCAPE ROOM

7: 30 PM @ WONGA PARK CRC

8
AUG

BIBLE STUDY: MARK

7: 30 PM @ WONGA PARK CRC

10
AUG

STATE YOUTH SERVICE

4 PM @ GEELONG CRC

22
AUG

BIBLE STUDY: MARK

7: 30 PM @ WONGA PARK CRC

5
SEP

BIBLE STUDY: MARK

7: 30 PM @ WONGA PARK CRC

19
SEP

BIBLE STUDY: MARK

7: 30 PM @ WONGA PARK CRC

FOR MORE INFORMATION SPEAK TO YOUR YOUTH LEADERS

Term 3 2025

YOUNG ADULTS

23 July	YA Bible study ^a
6 Aug	YA Bible study ^a
10 Aug	SYS* (Geelong)
17 Aug	YA Social
20 Aug	YA Bible study ^a
3 Sep	YA Bible study ^a
13 Sep	YA Social
17 Sep	YA Bible study ^a

Series: Jesus the game changer

a — Location: 70-72 Ennismore Crescent, Park Orchards
Time: 7:30-9:30pm

* — State Youth Service



Dear church family & friends

You are invited to a morning tea in the church hall on the 31st of Aug 2025 after the morning service to celebrate my significant birthday milestone and recent retirement from my full-time job.

All are welcome! Looking forward to celebrating with you!

Kind regards
Brendina Saul

Ways to serve at the **DINING ROOM MISSION**

The next opportunity to cook for the Dining Room Mission is 26 August.

Contact Joy van Veen for details.

Their food pantry would love donations of pantry staples such as...
Cereal, long life milk or other beverages, tuna and other tinned goods, rice, pasta etc.

Even a little money to support the cooks or pantry is also gratefully accepted.

CALLING FOR ELDER NOMINATIONS

As announced on Sunday, Church council is looking for nominations for new Elders. Please consider these prayerfully and if you would like to nominate someone, please submit your nomination to either Chris or one of the Elders.

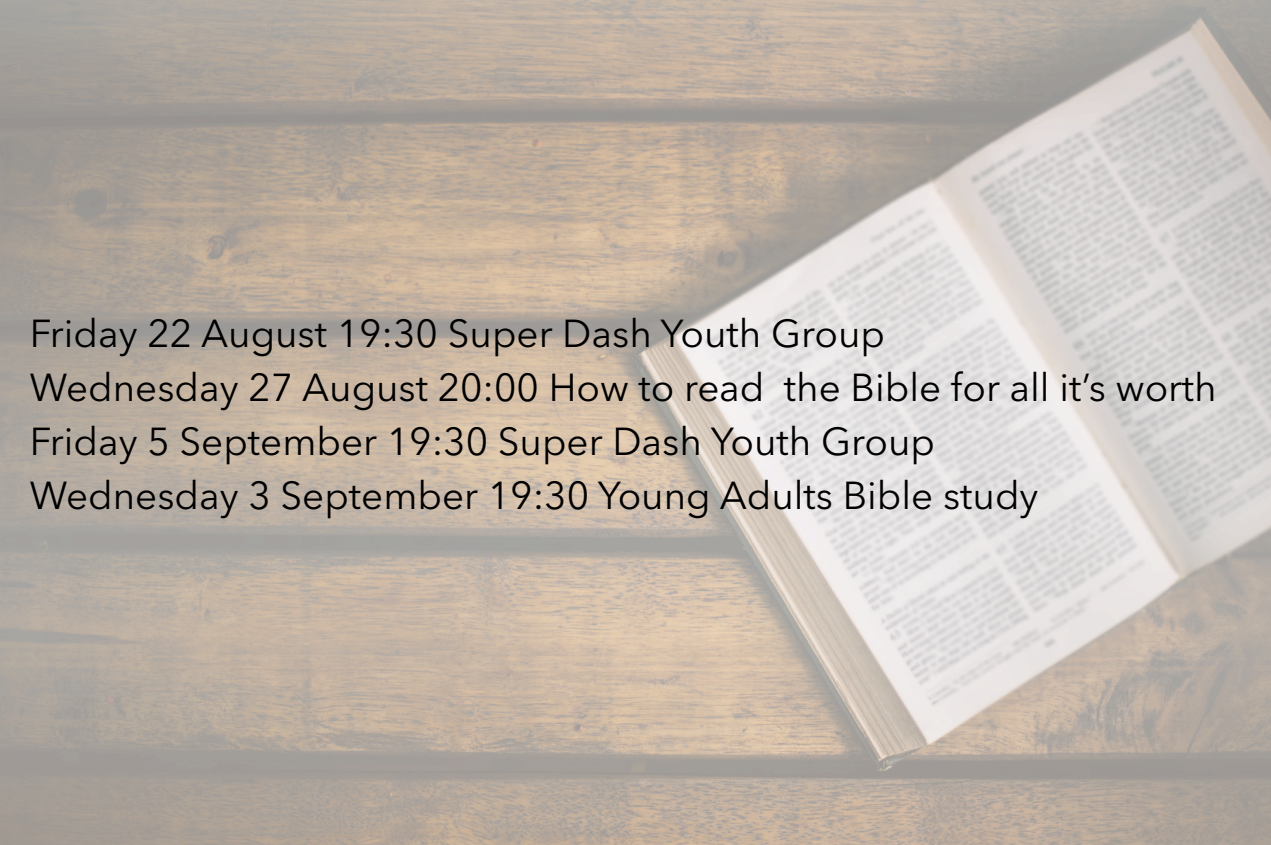
You can do this by emailing pastor@wpcrc.org.au or session@wpcrc.org.au, or let them know in person.

SAFE CHURCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Classis is looking for a suitable person from amongst its churches to be its representative on the Safe Church Advisory Committee (SCAC).

If anyone is interested and wants to know more about being a rep, please email David Timmins at: classis.maroondah.clerk@gmail.com

Upcoming events **OUR CHURCH CALENDER**



Friday 22 August 19:30 Super Dash Youth Group

Wednesday 27 August 20:00 How to read the Bible for all it's worth

Friday 5 September 19:30 Super Dash Youth Group

Wednesday 3 September 19:30 Young Adults Bible study

NEW RELEASE



NOW AVAILABLE



Spotify



MUSIC



YouTube

DISTROKID

Discussion QUESTIONS

- Paul prays on his knees, how often have you prayed like this? What does this posture show us?
- Where have you seen Christ's love at work in our church family recently?
- How can we pray for one another to grow deeper in grasping Christ's love this week?
- Why do you think Paul prays for strength to grasp Christ's love, rather than assuming we can understand it easily?
- What would it look like for your own leadership (as a parent, in marriage, or in the workplace) to be marked more by prayer and dependence than by control?
- How does being "rooted and grounded in love" help us resist selfishness in our relationships?
- Can you share a time when God's love felt particularly "immeasurable" to you – beyond what you could understand?
- What dangers arise when authority in the home or church is divorced from love? How does Paul's prayer help safeguard against those dangers?
- Paul ends in doxology ("to Him be glory"). How can you turn your own prayers for family, church, or work into doxology instead of self-focus?
- This week, what is one practical way you can pray for someone else to be strengthened to grasp more of Christ's love?

Sermon NOTES

Bible passage:

Date:



Something
that shines
from the
passage



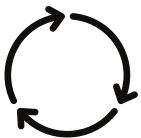
Anything
hard to
understand
or any
questions



Personal
application
for your life



Theme of
passage



How does it
fit with other
passages in
the Bible



Who will you
tell about
what you have
learnt?

Helping HANDS

	24 August	31 August	7 September
Preacher	Chris Pretorius	Peter Williams	Colin Pretorius
Elder on Duty	Kasha	Jacob	Martin
Prayer Leader	Herman L	Jacob	Martin
Music Leader	Inge	Mia	Brendina
Children's Talk	Janette	Mia	Nicky
Bible Reader	Adri	Steve	-
Sound	Nina	Cassie	Nic
Visuals	Salme	Isaac	Ene
Broadcasting	Christo	James	Pieter
Sunday School	Ilze, Lize B, Izelle	Ilze, Lize B, Nici	Sarah, Lize S, Izelle
Coffee	Danie & Grietjie Uys	Lynette Pretorius & Nelleke Arnold	Herman & Heather Linde

Upcoming BIRTHDAYS



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

Brendina Saul 24 August
Nelleke Arnold 27 August
Alexandre Theron 2 September
Jenna Miller 3 September
Johan Schachtner 4 September
Adriaan van Gent 5 September
Danielle Bezuidenhout 7 September
Herman Dyer 10 September
Cassie van Veen 12 September
Ina du Plessis 14 September
Luke Corney 14 September

Who Should I Contact?

Pastor:	Chris Pretorius	0423 889 913	pastor@wpcrc.org.au
Chairman of Session:	Peter Williams	0431 500 006	session@wpcrc.org.au
Community Engagement	Jenna Miller	0403 650 398	
Church Administrator:	Sarah Pretorius	0409 221 277	admin@wpcrc.org.au
Deacons:	Leana van Gent	0452 334 224	deacons@wpcrc.org.au
Music Ministry:	Mia Van Wyk	0420 817 800	
Sound & Visuals:	Cassie Van Veen	0499 230 872	
Children's Talk:	Sarah Pretorius	0409 221 277	
Sunday School:	Sarah Pretorius	0409 221 277	
Youth Group:	Kasha Schubert	0450 012 177	youth@wpcrc.org.au
Young Adults:	Michael van der Merwe	0456 960 424	
Growth Groups:	Chris Pretorius	0423 889 913	
Prayer Chain:	Herman Linde	0411 069 808	
Facilities & Maintenance:	Dale Reed	0412 216 300	deacons@wpcrc.org.au
Newsletter:	Leana van Gent	0452 334 224	newsletter@wpcrc.org.au