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# The Messenger



“... How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!” Romans 10:15

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A Weekly Publication of the Christians Meeting at  
Westlake church of Christ, 2291 Highway Z, Wentzville, Missouri 63385

Website: [westlakechurchofchrist.org](http://westlakechurchofchrist.org)

Sunday: AM Bible Study – 9:30 a.m., AM Worship – 10:30 a.m., PM Worship – 5:00 p.m.; Wednesday: PM Bible Study 7:30 p.m.

*Dedicated to the Proclamation of the Truth in the Spirit of Love (Ephesians 4:15)*

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Evangelist and Editor:

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Listen to PROVE ALL THINGS on 730 AM WKRE, Sunday mornings from 8:15 to 8:30.

## Thanksgiving

Praise the Lord! Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever! Psalm 106:1

After George Washington authorized the first Thanksgiving Day in 1789, 74 years passed without another such day of thanks. Then, Abraham Lincoln established the holiday as an annual event in America. His Thanksgiving proclamation is worth reading again today:

*It is the duty of nations as well as of men to owe their dependence upon the overruling power of God; to confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon; and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scripture and proven by all history, that those nations are blessed whose God is the Lord.*

*We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven; we have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity; we have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us.*

*It has seemed to me fit and proper that God should be solemnly, reverently, and gratefully acknowledged, as with one heart and one voice, by the whole American people. 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.*

President Lincoln authorized our annual Thanksgiving Day in 1863 – in the midst of the Civil War.

Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. I Thessalonians 5:18

Sincerely,  
Monica Cole, Director  
[OneMillionMoms.com](http://OneMillionMoms.com)

## What Should be Our Response to Secular Pluralistic Humanism?

Conclusion

by Dempsey Collins

4. Secular humanism is antagonistic toward Christianity. Humanism preaches pluralism but constantly demeans and attacks Christianity and Biblical teaching. Humanists claim neutrality but they are, in fact, very biased against Christianity. Humanists arrogantly say, as the Jews of old, “we will not have this man to reign over us” (Luke 19:14). They utterly reject Jesus the Christ of God.

5. We must take the threat of humanism seriously. This organized movement is very aggressive in its attempt to eradicate faith in God. In Manifesto I, creedal statement number 6: "We are convinced that the time has passed for theism, deism, modernism, and the several varieties of new thought." *Again*, humanism claims to be pluralistic and neutral in their attitude toward other religions. They are neither. Their actions reveal a disdain for the Bible in general and animosity toward Christianity in particular. They would like nothing better than the complete eradication of Christianity.
6. We need to wake up and get serious about our response to humanism. We need to arm ourselves with the word of God and prayer. We need regular structured Bible study, prayer and association with strong Christians (Ephesians 6:10-18).
7. We need to get serious about daily devotionals of teaching, prayer, singing, and dialogue with our children. "As the home goes, so goes the nation." This is true whether there is a home of godly parents, godless parents, or children raised by state employees at a daycare center. It just takes one generation to socially engineer a new culture. This social engineering begins with children. Humanists know it and we had better know it! Since the early years of development are the most crucial in the formation of personal beliefs, standards and attitudes, the home is a primary target of secular humanism. Parents, wake up and do the work God has called you to do (Eph. 6:1-4).
8. Be as salt to this unsavory world (Matthew 5:13). The world needs to see an **obvious difference** in your speech, priorities, standards, dress, habits, and overall attitude. Let us remember *who* we are and *whose* we are (Gal. 2:20; Col. 3:4). First century saints advertised their message through righteous living. As Paul said, "Always adorning the doctrine of Christ" (Titus 2:10). Living by faith is the **best** evidence for the validity and power of the gospel.
9. Guard your heart from evil influences (Proverbs 4:23). As parents, we are very concerned about the proper diet of our children. As Christians, we should be even more concerned about their spiritual diet. Humanists do not need to take the children from many homes because the parents are giving their children away by allowing unregulated viewing of TV and computer and unmonitored listening to music. Parents, you must take a firm stand here. STOP viewing and allowing your children to view indecent and violent images. STOP allowing evil associations (I Cor. 15:33). Such associations will only encourage and seek to legitimize sinful conduct. Let us **reorder** our priorities in compliance with II Corinthians 6:14-18. "Do not be bound together with unbelievers for what partnership has righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? Therefore come out from their midst and be separate." Philippians 4:8 "Whatsoever is true, honest, just, pure, lovely, of good repute, any virtue, any praise, think on these things." Romans 12:1 "Be not conformed to this world but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind that you may prove what is good and acceptable and the perfect will of God."
10. Take an active role in spreading the Gospel to the lost. Bringing lost souls to Jesus Christ will not only save them but make them the best spouse, parent, son, daughter, citizen, worker, neighbor they could possibly be. Christianity is a spiritual cause, not a social cause. But the good fruit of salvation overlaps into all areas of life (Matthew 16:24; Romans 12:1, 2). Through Jesus Christ human beings can transcend their sinful environment and former teaching and conduct. Paul did (I Timothy 13, 14). The Corinthians did (I Corinthians 6:9-11). So can you! Christ can produce what humanism promised, but cannot deliver.
11. Let us be ready to suffer for Christ if need be. Various forms of persecution already exist. It is usually in the form of rhetoric but history shows us such verbal ridicule (Matthew 5:11) often escalates in physical persecution over a period of time (Acts 8:1 ff). There is without question a growing intolerance for Christianity in this nation. Let us be encouraged by the faith and courage of the first century saints. In spite of persecution (verbal and physical) they "turned the world upside down" with the teaching of Christ (Acts 17:6). The faith of Esther is also a great example to all of us "Thus I will go ... and this I will do ... If I perish, then I perish" (Esther 4:16).
12. First century saints accepted their role as pilgrims and sojourners upon the earth. (I Peter 2:11) We must be ever aware "This world is truly not our home, we're just passing through." When we, as first century disciples, truly accept this fact, then we will also be able to say in all sincerity, "I don't feel at home in this world anymore."
13. Let us be good citizens as the Lord instructs (Romans 13:1-7). Leading revolutions, burning cars and buildings and urging people to overturn the government is not conducive with Christianity. Jesus instead commands us to obey the civil government and submit to its authority. Christians are among the best citizens in any nation. Peter tells us by such lawful conduct we will silence slanderous charges and may save some (I Peter 2:12).
14. Be ever watchful and prayerful.