

# Give Thanks to God

*I give thanks to God. He will do it  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

—Romans 7:25 NIV

Consider reading:  
Romans  
7:24-25

*The Rev. Allen Parks, Indiana*

Tony was invited to Mike's birthday dinner. Tony bought Mike a red tie because he knew Mike loved the color red. He also knew Mike liked to dress nice. When Mike opened the package he was very excited. He said, "Thank you, thank you!" At dinner, they celebrated with chocolate birthday cake. When it was time to go home, Tony said, "Thanks for inviting me to your birthday dinner." Mike and Tony know when someone gives them something, it is always good to say "thank you."

- ***Have you ever been given a gift?***
- ***If so, what gift were you given?***
- ***Did you thank the person who gave you this gift?***
- ***What is the best gift you have ever been given?***
- ***Why was it the best gift?***

Our Father in heaven gave us a gift. God's gift is his Son, Jesus. Jesus lived on earth and died on the cross. He did that so even when our body dies, we will live in heaven with God some day. Jesus died and rose from death just for us. That's a gift better than anything we may have been given for a birthday! God's gift of his love is the best present we can receive. It's a big reason to say thank you to God each and every day.

- ***We just heard God gives us the gift of heaven. Do we have to do anything to get this gift?***

God gives us the gift of heaven free. We do not have to do anything to receive this gift; we just have to believe in Jesus. Following God's rules, or commands, is good, but it does not get us into heaven. Being kind to others is good, but it does not get us into heaven. Taking care of someone who is sick or needs help is good, but it does not get us into heaven. Giving money to church or the poor is good, but it does not get us into heaven. Only believing in Jesus gets us into heaven. It is not what we do, but what God gives to us that brings us to heaven some day.

- ***Is going to church every week the way we get to heaven? (No.)***
- ***Is memorizing Bible verses the way we get to heaven? (No.)***
- ***Is taking care of a hurt animal the way we get to go to heaven? (No.)***
- ***How do we get to heaven some day? (If we believe in Jesus, we will get to go to heaven.)***

Along with the promise of heaven, we get gifts every day. Think about the food we eat, the clothes we wear, the home we live in, the people who care for us; these are all gifts. They are all reasons to say thank you—thank you to others and thank you to God.

- ***Think about your day today. Who did you thank today?***
- ***Think about the gifts you have received from God today. Have you thanked him?***

## PRAYER

Dear God, thank you for this day. Thank you for always being with us and caring for us. Thank you for sending Jesus. We know if we believe in him, we will live in heaven with you some day. Thank you for friends and family who love us. Thank you for each gift you give us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.