

# THE LAMPLIGHT

*"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path"*  
(Psalm 119:105 - NKJV)

*"For the commandment is a lamp, and the law a light;  
Reproofs of instruction are the way of life"*  
(Proverb 6:23 - NKJV)

## Giving Thanks and Thanksgiving

*By Reverend James Johnson*

We approach our times of the year in which we give and perhaps receive. Let us examine what this is really all about.

It seems that our holiday of Thanksgiving emerged out of so called freedom of religion and we have commercialized it to a certain extent. On the other hand our celebration of the earthly birth of Christ has been secularized. However, we can't take the thanks or the giving out of each.

Since November comes before December, let's look at Thanksgiving first. Of course we won't find our holiday of Thanksgiving in the Bible, anywhere. However, in the Old Testament, there was a feast of thanksgiving (Lev. 22:29). It dealt with the dispensation of law as the other feasts did. But, Psalm 95:2 (NIV) says, "Let us come before Him with thanksgiving" (to praise Him). Psalm 100:4, says, "Enter His gates with thanksgiving." If we examine the word translated Thanksgiving in the New Testament, we have Phil 4:6 (NIV). It says, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." I conclude that if we are giving thanks to God for anything, we are having a day of thanksgiving. Therefore, we as Christians should have many days of thanksgiving per year as we worship God in the spirit of thanksgiving.

According to Matthew, the Magi visited the Child Jesus and His mother a little time after His earthly birth. They brought gifts of gold, incense and myrrh. According to Unger (Unger's Handbook, p.472), "The gold spoke of the King's deity; the frankincense alludes to the fragrance of His life, and myrrh was a hinting of His mission to die."

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In Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5:23), He speaks of offering gifts at the altar. Acts 20:35 tells us that it is more blessed to give than to receive. Luke 6:38 says, that if we give, men will give unto us.

I believe that giving is always right, even if we are giving for purposes that may or may not be addressed in the Bible. So, I say give to God, give to others and give to self. But, let us have a spirit of giving thanks to God at all times! Biblically, giving thanks is a heart thing. Ω

## Paraclete

### The Importance of Repentance

*"Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is near" (Matthew 3:2 NIV)*

**It's exciting to observe that the New Testament begins with a call to repentance.**

Both John the Baptist and Jesus began their public ministries by preaching repentance. The entire thrust of the Sermon on the Mount is that in order to enter the kingdom of heaven people must repent of their sinful practices, completely change their thought processes, and seek to follow what Jesus commands. After His resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples saying, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem" (Luke 24:46-47). The preaching of repentance, then, is the purpose of Jesus' suffering and resurrection.

**And it is equally exciting to note that the New Testament ends with a call to repentance.**

*"Those whom I Love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent." (Revelation 3:19 NIV)*



### Reference Library

To commemorate Martin Luther King's birthday, TBI Reference Library will open its doors to church members, ministers, students, faculty, and alumni on January 16, 2012. As some claim, America's Prophet -the drum major - who looked into the consciousness of this country and changed it forever will be honored. The Library schedule will be posted in the December edition of our "on-line Newsletter."

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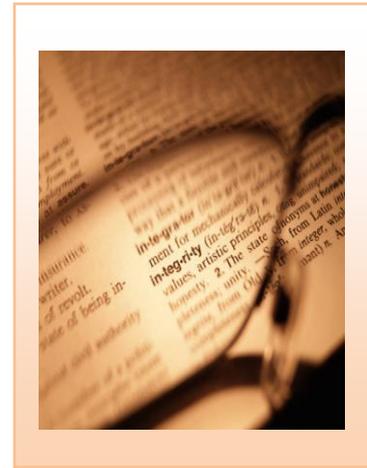
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## Student Activity

Exerts from Sarah E. Kleman's *"The Ethics of Integrity,"* an assignment completed in the course Christian Ethical Issues.

A person with integrity is willing to bear the consequences of one's convictions, even when it is difficult. If one's only principle is to seek pleasure and desires, integrity is lost because there is no possibility for error or conflict in integrity. The balance of conflict, arrogance, dogmatism, and rigidity are traits that suppress integrity. A person with integrity lives on a daily basis with the challenges of self-deception, weakness of the will, hypocrisy and self ignorance; they pose a threat to the integrity of a person. It is not the traits that undermine integrity, but integrity undermining those traits. If we are thrown into a critical experience of injury or an illness, or a possibility of a life that was lost, integrity was used to do the right thing. It is pure and correct, it has no blemishes, so if we let our desires overcome our nature then we lose integrity. In Scripture, integrity is translated as "tome" (KJV). It conveys several meanings combined in one idea: completeness, prosperity, innocence. It is usually related to the heart.

***"Let integrity and uprightness preserve me; for I wait on thee" (Psalm 25:21 KJV).***



SPRING SEMESTER

CLASSES 2012

Class offerings will be announced by Mid-December. This data will be forwarded via email to potential students.

# THE LAMPLIGHT

## Spring 2012 Academic Calendar

December 19 – January 06

January 9

January 14

January 16

February 3

February 10

February 20

March 9

March 19-24

April 2 – 7

April

April 30 – May 5

May 12

May 19

Ceremony

Registration

Classes Begin

Survey Classes Begin

MLK Birthday (No Classes)

Last day to register

Last day to drop class (No Refund)

President’s Day (Class in Session)

Deadline to apply for Graduation

Mid-Term Examination week

Easter Recess

**Happy Easter**

Final Examinations

Graduation Rehearsal

14<sup>th</sup> Annual Commencement/Awards



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