

Gratitude *and* God



Luke 12:13-21

The Parable of the Rich Fool

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.”

¹⁴ Jesus replied, “Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?” ¹⁵ Then he said to them, “Watch out! **Be on your guard against all kinds of greed**; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.”

¹⁶ And he told them this parable:

“The **ground** of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. ¹⁷ He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’

¹⁸ “Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. ¹⁹ And I’ll say to myself, “You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.”’”

20 But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’

21 “This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but **is not rich toward God.**”



Because the rich man is not grateful, he is not generous. Because the rich man does not see his life as grace, he does not respond in gratitude.

More Powerful People Express Less Gratitude

ERIC ANICICH AND ALICE LEE

<https://hbr.org/2022/04/research-more-powerful-people-express-less-gratitude>



Gratitude is *not* flattery.
Flattery is disingenuous.
It is about the *thanker*.

Gratitude is *genuine* thanks.
Gratitude is about the *thanked*.



Gratitude is about *God*.

First, gratitude is a *means of grace*—
a way that God makes me like Him.

Second, gratitude is an *act of worship*—
a practice that reminds me I am not
God.

Psalm 150

¹ Praise the LORD.

Praise God in his sanctuary;
praise him in his mighty heavens.

² Praise him for his acts of power;
praise him for his surpassing greatness.

³ Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet,
praise him with the harp and lyre,

⁴ praise him with timbrel and dancing,
praise him with the strings and pipe,

⁵ praise him with the clash of cymbals,
praise him with resounding cymbals.

⁶ Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.
Praise the Lord.

An aerial photograph of a city street scene. In the foreground, a large crowd of people is gathered on the sidewalk and street. Behind them is a large, multi-story brick building with a prominent gabled roof. The text "KING STREET U.B. CHURCH" is visible on the front of the building. To the right of the church is another large brick building. The background shows more city buildings and trees. A large green triangle with a white and orange diagonal stripe is in the top right corner.

Today I am Thankful for...

Country (and its neighbours!)

An aerial photograph of a city street scene. In the foreground, a large crowd of people is gathered in a parking lot in front of a large, multi-story brick building. The building has a sign that reads "KING STREET U.B. CHURCH". To the right of the church is another large brick building. The background shows a dense urban area with various buildings and trees. A large green triangle is in the top right corner, and a white and orange diagonal line runs from the bottom right towards the center.

Today I am Thankful for...

Country (and its neighbours!)

King Street Church

\$122,400

10 missionaries
— **and** —
8 missionary
organizations



\$106k

**27 STUDENT
LIVES CHANGED**

**3 MINISTRIES
SERVED IN GREECE**



**400
people
taught
@AGAPE**

26

children

cared for 2x/week

After-School



**300
families**



**SERVED EVERY
QUARTER THRU
OMM! (\$26,400)**

\$121,650

**supporting 19
local ministry partners**



An aerial photograph of a city street scene. In the foreground, a large crowd of people is gathered on a paved area, possibly a parking lot or a public square. Behind them is a large, multi-story brick building with a prominent arched entrance. To the left of this building is a smaller, older structure with a gabled roof. The background shows a dense urban landscape with various buildings and trees. A large green triangle is positioned in the top right corner, and a white diagonal line with an orange border runs from the bottom right towards the center.

Today I am Thankful for...

Country (and its neighbours!)

King Street Church

Family and Friends

An aerial photograph of a city street, likely in a historic district, showing a large crowd of people gathered in front of a large, multi-story brick building with a prominent steeple, identified as King Street Church. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. A large green triangle is in the top right corner, and a white and orange diagonal stripe is in the bottom right corner.

Today I am Thankful for...

Country (and its neighbours!)

King Street Church

Family and Friends

Body/Life



“Life is not merely a loan; it is the Redeemer’s preeminent gift.”

-Douglas Schuurman



God is not a Giver of whom we say,
“Well, it’s the thought that counts.”

The Father is the Source of every
good gift. (James 1:17)



**Today I am thankful
for Christ.**



Sin is ingratitude and ingratitude is sin.



A spirit of ingratitude will derail a life,
a family, a church, a business, a
nation.

A spirit of gratitude can reorient a life,
a family, a church, a business, a
nation.



Christ is not simply *one* gift among many.

Christ is not simply the *best* gift.

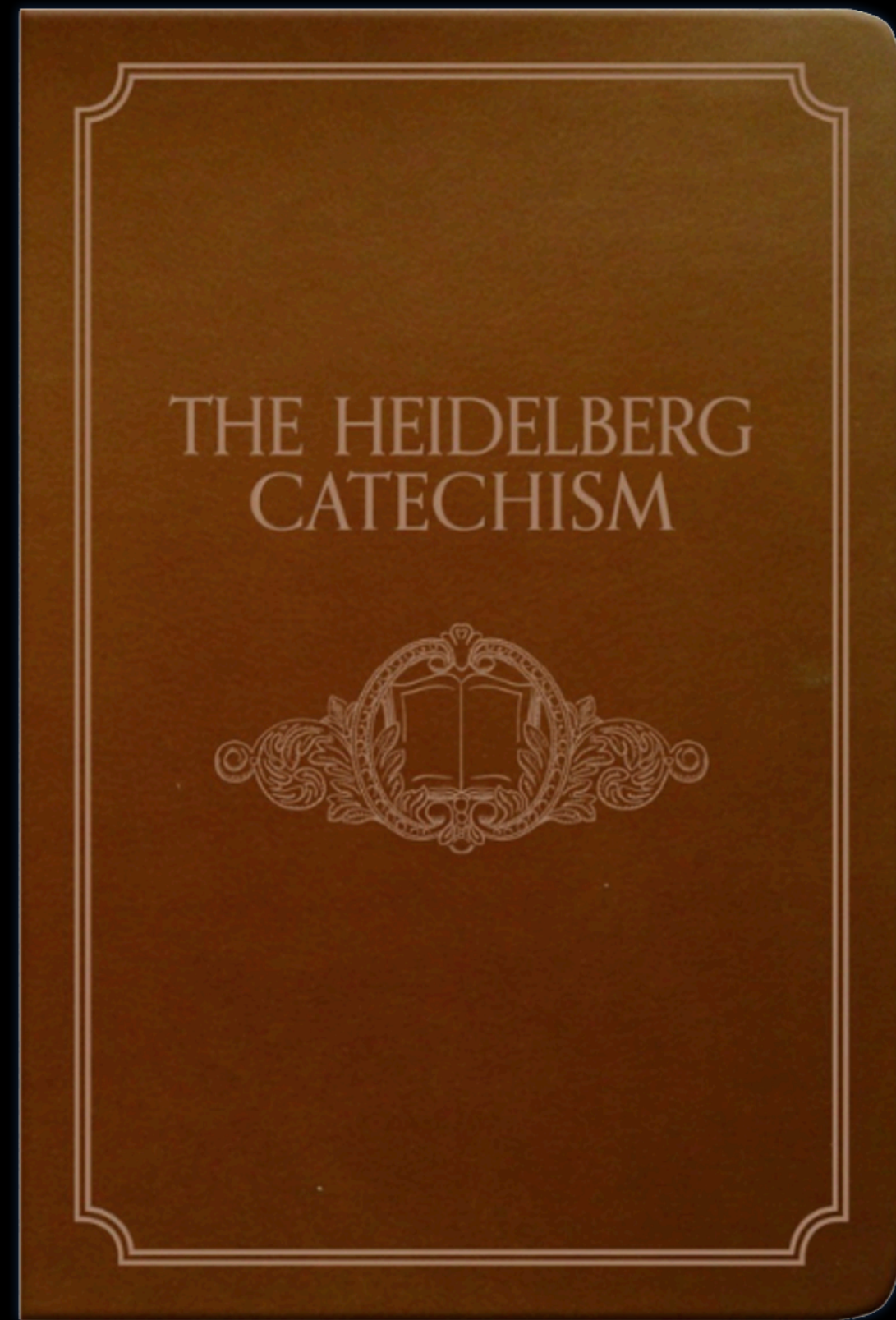
Christ is the *perfect* gift who redeems and orders *every* other gift from God.



Gifts always come with strings attached. Gifts come with strings like food comes with calories. God is attached to every gift He gives and to everyone who receives His gifts.

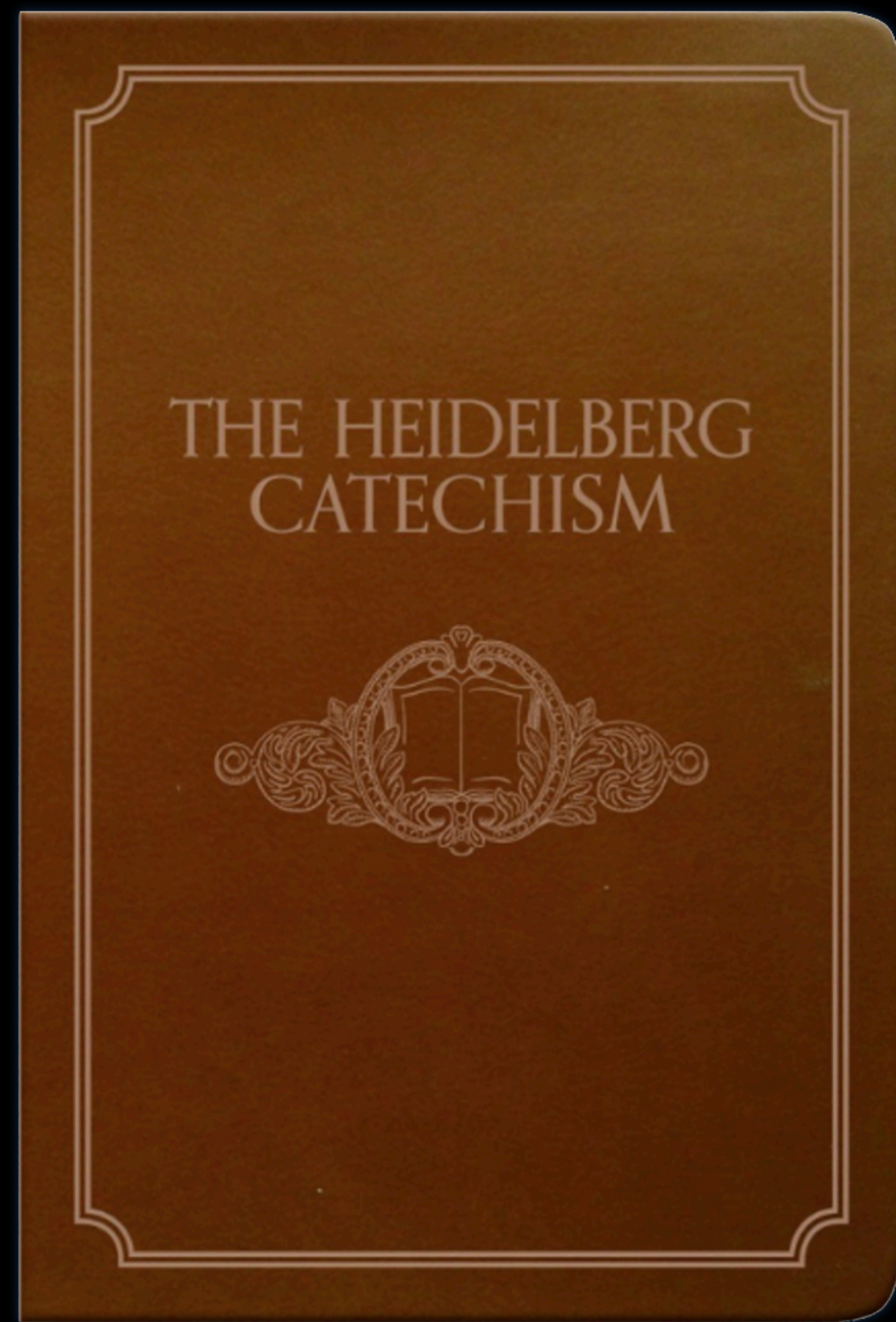


To give thanks to God for Christ
means to give thanks to God *for* every
gift He has given and to honor Christ
with and *through* every gift God has
given.



Heidelberg Catechism

Question 86. Since we have been delivered from our misery by grace through Christ without any merit of our own, why then should we do good works?



Answer

Because Christ, having redeemed us by his blood, is also restoring us by his Spirit into his image, **so that with our whole lives we may show that we are thankful to God for his benefits...**
and so that by our godly living, our neighbors may be won over to Christ.



**Give God thanks *for* your body and life
and *with* your body and life.**



Don't allow the desires of the body to dictate the purposes of the body.

The body is not a vehicle for your pleasure or a canvas for your creativity.



Don't allow alienation from your body to dictate your plans for the body.

The body is a gift from God, your means of worshipping God in every act and deed.



Give God thanks *for* your body and life
and *with* your body and life.

**Give God thanks *for your church* and
*with your church.***

“Just as the Christian should not be constantly feeling his spiritual pulse, so, too, the Christian community has not been given to us by God for us to be constantly taking its temperature. The more thankfully we daily receive what is given to us, the more surely and steadily will fellowship increase and grow from day to day as God pleases.”

DIETRICH BONHOEFFER

Life Together



FIRST TIME OPPORTUNITIES

Text to (717) 401-7777

- Text **SERVE** to thank God with your skills and talents
- Text **GIVE** to thank God with your resources



Gratitude removes us from the present moment because it connects us to things that have surpassed and will surpass time.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray continually, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.



As we age, we have two options:

To grow in gratitude for all that
we've been given

or

To grow in bitterness for all that
we've lost.

Philippians 2:9-11

⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,
¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is
Lord, to the glory of God the Father.



Your destiny is to be a
THANK YOU
to God.