



The Caller

A Weekly Newsletter of the Elizabethtown church of Christ
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PAUL HOLLAND
minister of the
**SWARTZ CREEK
CHURCH OF CHRIST,
SWARTZ CREEK,
MICHIGAN**

SPEAKER

Sunday, April 14

@ 9:30 a.m.

“Is the Bible God’s Word?”

@ 10:30 a.m.

“Is There Truth?”

@ 6:00 p.m.

**“Do I Have a Relationship
with God?”**

Monday Night, April 15

@ 7 p.m.

“Is There a God?”

Tuesday Night, April 16

@ 7 p.m.

“Do I Need a Savior?”

Wednesday Night, April 17

@ 7 p.m.

**“Is There More Than One Way
to God?”**

TIMES

You’re Invited!

WHAT

Spring Gospel Meeting

WHERE

Elizabethtown Church of Christ

WHEN

April 14-17, 2019



**Elizabethtown Church of Christ
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Too Grateful to be Hateful

The title above is definitely not original to me. I hear these words often when I cross paths with a man who is an encouragement to many. You might be surprised to find the environment this man serves in daily. He is the man who first makes contact with those who come to visit their loved ones in prison. I have witnessed first hand his concern for all and his positivity towards those who are discouraged.

I was blessed to begin a Monday with an opportunity to have contact with this man. Because of our elders' focus upon those in prison, as well as your generous giving as a congregation, I was able to take another box of Bibles to be distributed to the prisoners. As I spoke with this man today, he even shared something, that to me, would be a reason not to be so upbeat...but yet there he was, as optimistic as ever. One of the many phrases he uses to encourage is the one found in the title of this article—"I am too grateful to be hateful." That thought set me to thinking. I will share some of my ideas for further consideration.

I am so grateful to a Godhead Who chose to create mankind—in His image! Did we catch that—we are made in the image of God? As humans, we are elevated above the other creatures of God's creation! This also means that as humans we are all equal. Paul in Acts 17:26 states that God has made of one blood all nations of men. I am so grateful to God to be made in His image that there is no thought of being hateful to others who are also made in God's image!

I am so grateful God has forgiven me! I held no hope on my own. I sinned and what I deserved was eternal punishment. But God showed grace! He sent His only Son that I might be forgiven. Do we know anyone who has sinned? Are we hateful enough that all we desire is that they are punished? Or are we willing to extend grace to those who do not deserve such? Matthew 18:21ff depicts for us how we should respond to those seeking forgiveness. I am definitely too thankful for the mercy God has extended to me to be hateful and unforgiving of others.

I am also so grateful to God for the joy and hope He has brought to my life, that it is my prayer I never come across as hateful as I live my life here in my temporary home. We see all kinds of signs popping up in neighborhoods and other places; they read "Just Be Kind." Wayne Jackson has an outstanding article on the *Christian Courier* site regarding kindness. The world is too full of hate. We not only have to have our sports team win but now we also often have to have the team we despise lose on the same day or weekend before we are happy. Have we gotten out of hand here? I think I have at times!

The god of this world, Satan, desires that we would have hatred in our hearts! If we remember what God has done for us—if we are grateful—it can genuinely remove the hate in our lives. I don't know about you, but I hope to display in my life that "I am too grateful to be hateful."

*John F. Board
Elizabethtown, KY*