

- **Anonymous friend** – “Life stinks. It would be better not to be born.” Whatever else worship is, and it’s a lot more, it presupposes that it’s good to be alive.
- **Ringo from “Tombstone”** – revenge for being born. As opposed to Wyatt Earp, who was driven by a desire, not for revenge, but for “a reckoning.” A setting all things right. And that *Day is coming!*
- **Genesis 1:31** God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning--the sixth day.
- Rom 1 – “They [1]neither glorified him as God [2]nor gave thanks to him, but their futile hearts were darkened and they became fools, exchanging...”

• I find it interesting that *a lack of thankfulness to God* is the part of the first move away from God and eternal life and toward becoming monsters.

- **Anger and Thankfulness.** Anger is an emotion appropriate for perceived **injustices**. Thankfulness is an emotion appropriate for perceived undeserved kindnesses – “You shouldn’t have!” “You didn’t have to do that!” Anger on the other hand, says, “You should have! You did have to do that, jerk!”
- **“Why are you so angry?”** Anger – entitlement = God-complex. “May my will be done!” I don’t have an anger problem – I have an idolatry problem. I think I should be in the place of God. *I’m doing what Adam and the devil did. I’m sitting in God’s chair.*
- **Glorifying God as God** – “Glory” means *weight* – who carries more weight with me?
- **Life is fundamentally not a right, but a gift.** And the split second we lose this truth we begin to die spiritually and become disconnected from the giver and grasp things we don’t have the power to hold so they stretch us in unhealthy worries and anger and regrets...
- **Negative Example – Gabe’s Ice Cream**
- **Positive Example – Merlin and Lydia (Byler) Emerson**
- Hard Earned **Wages** vs. the **Christmas Bonus**.
- The **Illusion of Control** and the demand for Justice/Fairness vs. the Fact of Dependence/Weakness and the truth that everything is gift – grace, not a right. We’re weak dependent creatures. We’re mortal. We’re not in control of very much.

- **Option A** – Life is a prerogative. I own my life. I deserve it. And the universe ought to bend to my will. “May my will be done.”
- **Option B** - Life is a stewardship, it is a temporary gift; and we’re accountable to the giver. “*Thy will be done.*”

- Conversation with **Mim Yoder over Nate’s Parkinson’s** and over her patients who find out they have limited time to live...they start out terrible and if they come to terms with

their mortality they become deeply grateful for every day – and they soften toward others, become more kind and gentle...

- **Matrix 3** – Trinity’s dying words the second time round – She tells Neo that last time all she said was “Sorry.”
  - Trinity: I wish I hadn't. That was my last thought. I wished I had one more chance, to say what really mattered, to say how much I loved you - how grateful I was for every moment I was with you. But by the time I knew what I wanted to say, it was too late.
  - But you brought me back. You gave me my wish. One more chance to say what I really wanted to say... Kiss me, once more. Kiss me.

- **Framing** – stop yourself from primarily focusing on what’s wrong – which will tend toward a complaining spirit. Instead frame your mental conversation with what’s right – giving thanks to God. Framing circumstances to be mindful of God’s grace and thankful is a biblical discipline of the renewed mind.
- **Activity #1** – Think of the people who have sacrificially contributed for your sake. Think of whose gifts have made you who you are; have helped you get to where you are. None of us accomplishes anything in life entirely without the kindness of others. Let’s just spend a minute thinking of some significant people whose contributions have got us this far.
- **Activity #2**–Let’s try this experiment. Let’s thank those people. Let’s thank our parents. Let’s thank our wives and children. Let’s thank our coworkers and friends. Let’s thank Jesus for blessings big and small. Thank you for coffee. Thank you for grass. Shoes. A planet that not only supports our life, but is beautiful.

- **So we’re mortal.** Let’s not waste a single of the short days we have left in worry and stress, but let’s view our moments and friends and really all people as the unnecessary blessing they are. We aren’t here by necessity or chance; we’re here by gracious providence.
- **Nobody asked me if I wanted to exist** – it was simply granted to me. Now what will my response to this little experiment of mortality be? Do I play the grumpy little god on the throne or do I play the part of a surprised child on Christmas morning...
- Will I glorify God as God? Will I give thanks? Will I treasure Christ more than all things, and in all His gifts? Or will I put myself on the throne and cry “not fair, not fair!”?
- May God help us through Christ.