

Sermon Notes – 11.24.2024 – What is Thanksgiving

I Searched My Heart for What I Mean When I Express Thanks.

- I Recognize something good about something or some one
- So, I express Gratitude, Appreciation, maybe Joy or Praise

Thanksgiving is Something That Belongs to God & Our Focus is Thanking God

- **Almost All of the Verses in the Bible that Mention “Thanks” are About Giving Thanks to God**

When the Pilgrims Celebrated the First “Thanksgiving” in their New Colony, It’s Clear:

They Were Giving Thanks to God

For at Least Three Days, They Were Giving Thanks to God for His Devine Favor for The Simplest of things: Food, Shelter, Protection and the Fellowship they Shared Among Themselves and with Their Wampanoag Neighbors.

They Appreciated All that God’s Providence Had Supplied to Them

Appreciate (*Miriam Webster*)

1 a : to grasp the nature, worth, quality, or significance of;; to value or admire highly;
to recognize with gratitude

2 a : to increase the value of

Thanksgiving is Impossible Without Humility - Hard to Appreciate Receiving What We Deserve

We Receive the Undeserved Gift of the Grace of God Through Our Fellowship with Christ

1 Corinthians 1:4-5 I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus, 5 that in everything you were enriched in Him, in all speech and all knowledge.

1 Corinthians 1:9 God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Appreciation: Valuing Each Other and Building Each Other Up

We Serve One Another as Givers of God’s “Manifold Grace”

1 Peter 4:8-11 Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. 9 Be hospitable to one another without complaint. 10 As each one has received a *special gift*, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 11 Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Valuing and Building Up People Who Are Different From Us:

The Advice Columnist and the irritating worker at the Housewares Catalog Store

God Places a Value on Us & We Are to “Overflow with Gratitude” For How He Builds Us Up

Colossians 2:6-7 Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, *so* walk in Him, *7* having been firmly rooted *and now* being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, *and* overflowing with gratitude.

The First Value is This: He Saved Us

Romans 10:9 that if you confess with your mouth Jesus *as* Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;

God Values Us & We Should Be Thankful – God Says:

2 Corinthians 5:17 if *anyone* is in Christ, *he is* a new creature;

Ephesians 2:10 we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works

1 Peter 2:9 But *you are* A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR *God's* OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

Galatians 3:26 For *you are* all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 1:3 [We Are] blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ,

Colossians 3:12 So, as those who *have been* chosen of God, holy and beloved,

Rom 8:37 We overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.

Romans 5:1 we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Romans 6:6 ... our old self was crucified with *Him*, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would *no longer be* slaves to sin;

2 Corinthians 2:14-15 But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifests through us *the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place.* *15* For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing;

Matthew 5:13 "*You are the salt of the earth;*

Ephesians 5:8 ...*you are* Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light

God Saved Us and Then Blessed Us With His Promises – Partakers of the Divine Nature

2 Peter 1:3-4 seeing that *His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.* *4* For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of *the* divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.

Psalms 107:1 Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, For His lovingkindness is everlasting.