

John T. Polk II, Editor

All Scripture quotations from the Editor are from the New King James Version
(Bible Resources may be found on: www.johntpolkll.com)
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Thank God

"Oh come, let us sing to the LORD!

Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving;

let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.

For the LORD is the great God, and the great King above all gods." (**Psalms 95:1-3**)

Before it was a nationally proclaimed "Thanksgiving Day," "turkey day," "football tradition," or "beginning of 'Black Friday' shopping," people approached God in worship and prayer "with thanksgiving." Pilgrims landed in North America near starvation in 1620 but, with help from Indians, survived and thanked God. Citizens have forgotten this state was not separate from worship of Almighty God.

"For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving; for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer." (**1 Timothy 4:4-5**)

Thank, again

--John T. Polk II

THANKSGIVING?

Paul told the young preacher Timothy concerning the eating of food, "*for every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving*" (1 Tim. 4:4). That certainly includes the Thanksgiving meal that we will partake of in a few days.

But, it seems that in this day and age, there is something fundamentally wrong with the contemporary American approach to Thanksgiving. We use the occasion of Thanksgiving to inventory our blessings and then carve the traditional turkey. When you get right down to it, there is something pretty empty and shallow with the attitude of "I appreciate what God has done for me; therefore I will indulge myself with a big meal!" Now, don't get me wrong – I probably will do my share of overeating on Thanksgiving Day – but I can't help but wonder if we are, in reality, participating in *Thanksfeeling* instead of genuine *Thanksgiving*. Real gratitude should give! What should thanksgiving really mean?

Thanksgiving means GIVING TO GOD. Paul stated to the Corinthians that remembering what Jesus gave for our sakes should make us want to give generously and cheerfully to God in return. (2 Cor. 9:6-9). The point is that thanksgiving to God should be rendered with our hearts, with our talents, with our time, and yes, even with our pocketbooks.

Thanksgiving means GIVING TO THOSE WHO HAVE GIVEN TO US. We all owe a debt of gratitude to those who raised us. Certainly we should honor them (Eph. 6:2). Unfortunately, in our fast-paced society, many children seem unable (or unwilling) to give their parents the time they should (this is true no matter how old you or your parents are). Are we truly thankful for our parents? Then let's demonstrate our gratitude by giving them the most valuable gift of all – ourselves. And not only our parents, but truly give back to any and all who have selflessly touched our lives (i.e. fellow Christians, teachers, friends, etc.).

Thanksgiving means GIVING TO THOSE WHO ARE IN NEED. Real gratitude shares. Those who have been richly blessed by God must, in turn, be a blessing to others. It's too easy for us to look at world hunger, hardship, and the needs of so many others and excuse ourselves by saying, "Well, I can't help everyone." True, you can't help everyone, but you can help someone (Gal. 6:10)! It is not enough to count our blessings, we must also share them with others.

We have so much for which to be grateful. But genuine thankfulness, genuine thanksgiving, not only feels, it acts! Does your thanksgiving really give?

- Edd Sterchi

Free Booklet : "What's In Baptism?"

<https://johnpolkll.com/files/documents/WhatsInBaptism.pdf>

Salted Speech Colossians 4:6

- ~ Give God what is right . . . not what is left.
- ~ We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.
- ~ God sends no one away empty except those who are full of themselves.
- ~ The idea some seem to have of service is "SERVE-US."
- ~ Every heart without Christ is a mission field, and every heart with Christ is a missionary

The Goals of Financial Freedom

The three areas which have the greatest potential to cause serious conflicts in your marriage are

1. Communication
2. Physical intimacy
3. Finances

The key to overcoming or preventing any such problems is "oneness" — where both husband and wife are "on the same page," sharing a common understanding, attitude, and life principles in these areas.

What does real "financial freedom" mean in marriage?

- It does not necessarily mean having more money, or having everything one could ever want.
- It's not a question of being insulated or protected from ever experiencing needs or financial pressures and problems.
- it is certainly not being independent of God.

Goal #1 TO BE RICH TOWARD GOD

- Luke 12:15-21
- Matthew 6:19-20
- Proverbs 11:24-25
- Acts 4:34-37
- 2 Corinthians 8:1-2
- 1 Timothy 6:17-19

Goal #2 TO BE CONTENT

- Philippians 4:10-13
- Hebrews 13:5-6

Goal #3 TO BE DEBT FREE

- Proverbs 22:7
- Romans 13:8

Barnes' Bible Charts

TURN IT AROUND

"Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country!" This challenge, made famous during the Kennedy presidency, suggests a like principle which should guide every Christian's attitude toward the church. We should be less concerned about what is being done for US and more attentive to what we are doing for others.

Ask not, therefore...

...whether this is a good congregation to be a member of, but ask whether I am a good member of the congregation.

...how much I am loved, but how much love have I shown.

...how many get well cards I received, but how many I have sent to others.

...who visited me, but who have I visited.

...how much I get out of classes, but how much I contribute to make the classes interesting and edifying.

...whether I was remembered in prayer, but whether I faithfully prayed for others.

...who did or did not speak to me, but how many others I greeted.

...whether my good work is recognized, but whether I have given honor to whom honor is due.

...how many of my prayer requests God has granted, but how grateful have I been for His innumerable blessings.

...to what extent my deeds have profited me now, but how my life will be remembered when I am gone.

"Look not every man on his own thing, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus" who "came not to be ministered unto, but to minister" (Phil. 2:4-5; Matt. 20:28).

- David Pharr