



03 October 2025

Getting ready for Thanksgiving

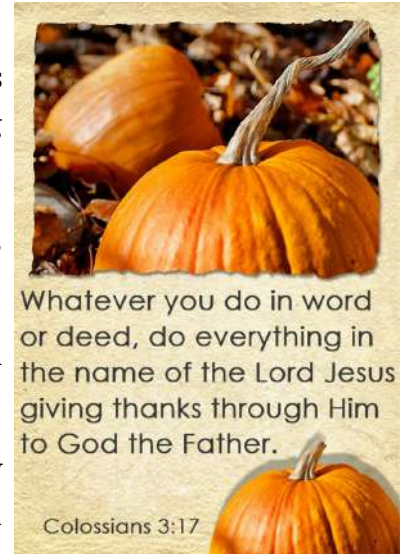
Thanksgiving is just over a week away.

Some people plan well in advance, even starting their plans months ahead of the big day. There are many postings on the internet offering checklists and time lines for what to do and when.

Then there are those who take a laidback, minimal planner approach, *just let it happen*.

Much of that is focused on the Thanksgiving gathering, meal and decorations.

As God's people we celebrate not because that day is commanded by God, but because He is the great, faithful God who lovingly cares and provides for us.



Question: Do you spend as much time preparing spiritually for Thanksgiving as you do for the big day and meal? Do you prepare spiritually at all?

On Thanksgiving Sunday we often sing,

“Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices, Who wondrous things has done”,

and

“Come, ye thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home ... God our Maker doth provide for our wants to be supplied; come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.”

Are we really prepared to enter in to that celebration of praise and thanksgiving with all our heart?

Let me suggest that one way we can prepare starting today and each day is living out the directive of Colossians chapter 3 verse 17,

“Whatever you do in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.”

Yes, do everything in the name of Jesus, give thanks in everything. In everything? Really? *Yes!* You may have heard the old story of a little boy at Thanksgiving dinner asking, “If I thank God for the

broccoli, won't he know that I'm lying?"

Let's back up a bit in the chapter and note just three of the reasons for being thankful to God that we find here.

- First, in verse 12, believers "have been chosen of God." In his letter to the church at Ephesus Paul declared that God "chose us in [Christ] before the foundation of the world" (1:4). That is beyond amazing!
- Second, verse 10 tells us believers are those who "have put on the new self which is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created it." God is constantly at work in us to make us more like Jesus.
- Third, verse 12 tells us believers are "holy and beloved." We know we fail. God knows it better than we do. We are loved by God and stand holy before Him in Christ, in His holiness.

Because of this, and so much more, we should, we are to give thanks to God. We are to give thanks to Him in everything, in all that we do. It should be obvious that God is telling us that being thankful is not to be limited to Thanksgiving weekend, or when life is going well, or even each Sunday as we come to worship together.

Thankfulness flows from seeing God as He is, ourselves as we are, and what God has done for us and is to us. There is no better way to prepare for thanksgiving than to be living a life of thankfulness, being thankful in each moment and every situation.

Make sure you are doing this preparation now. It should flow from our hearts and be a discipline of our lives. We can and should be constantly growing in being thankful to God. I don't know about you, but I know that I am not too thankful, nor have I ever met anyone who is too thankful.

Pastor Lyle