



10 October 2025

God's Abundant Blessings

Thanksgiving has been celebrated in Canada for many years, and at different times. In 1959 Parliament settled on the date we now use, stating Thanksgiving is to be “a day of general thanksgiving to Almighty God for the bountiful harvest with which Canada has been blessed.”

Last year's Okanagan fruit crop was deemed a disaster because of the January cold snap. This year has been described as a banner year across the board. The cherry crop was a record breaker, much to Anita's delight! Highs and lows, booms and busts, that's the way it is in agriculture.



It is not so with God.

Psalm 147 tells us “Great is our Lord and abundant in strength; His understanding is infinite” (5). The New Living Translation tries to capture the thrust by rendering it, “His power is absolute! His understanding is beyond comprehension!” God's *abundant* or *absolute* strength and *infinite* understanding are constant, unchanging, eternal. There is no up and down, boom and bust with God. As God tells us through James, “with [God] there is no variation or shifting shadow” (1:17). So we can say “Thank You God for Your absolute power and beyond comprehension understanding” today, and every day, regardless of what is going on in our lives and world.

In Psalm 86 king David declared, “You, O Lord, are a God compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness and truth” (15). Holy God is compassionate and gracious to you. He cares about and for you. He is abundant in, He overflows with lovingkindness to you. Take pen and paper and list God's kind acts of love to you already today, in the last week, and highlights of the last year. Then, think about God's abundant truth He shares through His word to guide you in our ever changing and turbulent world. Thank God for these abundant blessings.

Psalm 130 speaks to our greatest need and God's abundant provision for it, “with the LORD there is mercy, and with Him is abundant redemption” (7). Isaiah tells us all who seek God will find that God has compassion and will “abundantly pardon” (55:7). The apostle Paul testified to this

abundant redemption as he tells us,

“even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. Yet I was shown mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief; and the grace of our Lord was more than abundant, with the faith and love which are found in Christ Jesus. It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all” (1 Tim. 1:13-15).

Each one of us who have been saved by the grace of God can say a hearty *Amen!* to that, and thank God for His abundant redemption and having the abundant life He gives us. We live and thrive in the abundant grace of God, who

“saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we did in righteousness, but in accordance with His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He richly poured out upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”

(Titus 3:5-7)

As we walk in this abundant, everlasting life relationship with God, He will continually shower us with His abundant grace just as we are told He did for the first Christians, His “abundant grace was upon them all” (Acts 4:33). God’s grace is sufficient for you at all times and in every circumstance (2 Corinthians 12:9). And so Paul’s great benediction,

“Now to [God] who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever” (Ephesians 3:20-21).

Lift your heart and voice in thanksgiving to God for His abundant blessings to you!

Pastor Lyle