



Pastor's Perspective — On Being Grateful

By Dr. Ron D. Lindholm, Senior Pastor

When I was in grade school, I was taught that the first Thanksgiving in America was celebrated by the Pilgrims at Plymouth, Massachusetts 1621. But it wasn't until years later that I learned the origin of our national day of Thanksgiving. It was a proclamation issued by President Abraham Lincoln at a time in the history of our nation which was arguably its bleakest and most tumultuous—the American Civil War.

That such a proclamation might have come after such a time of conflict would have been reasonable to me, but our sixteenth President was of a more noble mind. Without ignoring the sore trouble of those days, he also saw the abundant evidence of the goodness of God and wished to direct the nation's attention to it, and thereby to God Himself from whom every blessing comes and to whom gratitude always and only belongs.

I hear people disparage our day and time. And while I will grant that we have our troubles, I will also insist that we have a God who is greater than our troubles and ever worthy of our praise and thanksgiving. To elicit such from you, consider Mr. Lincoln's proclamation below, and celebrate the goodness of God:

The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God. In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity, which has sometimes seemed to foreign States to invite and to provoke their aggression, peace has been preserved with all nations, order has been maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere except in the theatre of military conflict; while that theatre has been greatly contracted by the advancing armies and navies of the Union. Needful diversions of wealth and of strength from the fields of peaceful industry to the national defense, have not arrested the plough, the shuttle or the ship; the axe has enlarged the borders of our settlements, and the mines, as well of iron and coal as of the precious metals, have yielded even more abundantly than

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heretofore. Population has steadily increased, notwithstanding the waste that has been made in the camp, the siege and the battle-field; and the country, rejoicing in the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor, is permitted to expect continuance of years with large increase of freedom. No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and

gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American People. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility and Union.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, this Third day of October, in the year of our Lord One Thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the Unites States the Eighty-eighth.

By the President: Abraham Lincoln

William H. Seward,
Secretary of State

Those Who Minister Express Thankfulness

During Awana a couple of weeks ago, a young Spark came to a leader to say her memorized verses. "I talked to my Daddy about how hard this verse is," she said, "but he said Jesus would help me. And look what He did!!" After memorizing yet another verse, she came bounding up again, saying, "Look what He did!!! This is why I love Him so!"

It was one of those moments when the one doing the ministering was the one being blessed.

The following are other expressions of thankfulness different people who are ministering in the body at Fellowship have to say about the joy they have been given by serving.

"I am thankful that I have had the privilege to teach the junior Sunday School class (along with Denise Odom) for approximately 23 years. You would think teaching the same age and the same stories year after year would become rote after a while. I am pleased to say that has never been the case. Watching the look on a student's face when they "get" something that they have never understood before is such an encouragement and blessing. I am truly thankful for all the kids that have come through my class and for the opportunity to help them grow in their walk with the Lord." – Tracy English

"I'm thankful for the privilege of working with our first-rate team of missionaries. Our family has especially enjoyed the opportunities we've had to host several of our missionary families in our home over the years, which has allowed us to really get to know these ordinary people who exemplify the level of devotion that our Savior calls for in all of His followers." - Pete English

"I am very happy that we have an ESL program at FBC. I have experienced tremendous joy while working with our students and am thankful that God has placed me in this ministry. It's a real blessing." – Nancy Gardner

"It's sometimes difficult to muster up energy for our English classes on Thursday evenings. It comes at the end of a long week and after a full day of work. But once the students start walking through the door, I'm genuinely excited to see to see them and thankful to God for bringing them to us. These are people whom I would otherwise never have the chance to meet, and God has given me the opportunity to build friendships with them and share the Gospel with them. Thank you, God, for this privilege." - Brian Platt

"I am thankful for all those who cleaned/mowed at the church...especially those who took more than their fair share of the workload." - Russell Mahoney

"I'm grateful for the opportunity to lead the Ladies Bible Study. Not only do we explore God's Word more deeply, but our group has come to know each other better as we share prayer requests and fellowship. By strengthening our friendship and faith we hope to have more women join us. It is a blessing to see God work in our lives!" - Gina Irving

Money Matters

October Giving Per Week (General Fund)	\$4,898
2015 Budgeted Needs Per Week	\$4,933
2015 Budgeted Receipts to Date	\$204,119
2015 Budgeted Needs to Date	\$212,119

NOVEMBER MEMORY VERSE



*Give thanks to the LORD,
call on His name; make
known among the nations
what He has done.
~1 Chronicles 16:8*

Men's Retreat



November 20-21
**"The Bible & Culture:
 Living for God in Man's World"**
 Cost: \$80.00
 Registration Deadline:
 November 6

Calendar

Nov. 2	Nursing Home Ministry (2:00 PM)
Nov. 14	Fall Workday (8:00 AM)
Nov. 18	Missions Prayer Meeting (7:30 PM)
Nov. 20-21	Men's Retreat
Nov. 22	Jim Ruff
Nov. 25	Thanksgiving Eve Gathering (7:30 PM)

Fellowship Baptist Church

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