

A Word from Our Preaching Pastor:

Sunday, November 29, 2009

*Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks;
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

1Thessalonians 5:16-18

Praise the Lord for His goodness every day! As Christians, each day should be a thanksgiving day. And yet, it is good for us to set aside at least one day on the calendar to stop and give thanks to God for His many blessings of grace that He has poured out on our undeserving heads.

That is the tragedy that grips our sad world. It has forgotten what it means to be thankful. For them, this is just a "Turkey Day" –C another excuse to eat too much and drink too much and watch TV, while we complain about the recession or whatever you want to call it. But the thing that is missing is the joy of making much of Him to whom all praise is due! (Rm 11:36)

Romans 1:21 says that although people knew about God, *"they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to Him"* Ingratitude, you see, is the root of all sin, pride, selfishness, bitterness and complaining. We take God's blessings for granted. We assume we deserve the good things that happen, and then complain bitterly they are absent. As if God "if He exists" is there to serve us and make our lives easier. But the Gospel of grace frees us from such insane delusions of self-importance. It re-orientes our world and puts God at the center, not us! When that happens you discover that you're finally free to do the one thing you were meant to do in all the world *"gain the joy of making much of Him forever"*!

This morning, I pray you know this freedom and that you will express it joyfully in the form of thanksgiving and praise offered to the One who matters most! And then, ask God to help us grasp the importance of knowing Him in a real and lasting way through the miracle of conversion by grace through faith in Christ!

With Thanksgiving in My Heart for all things in Christ!

Pastor Scott
