



NOVEMBER 2023



How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed?
And how are they to believe in Him of whom they have never heard?
And how are they to hear without someone preaching? (Rom 10:14)



THANKFUL I'M NOT WHAT I USED TO BE

BY BILL POWELL

I have been thinking like most of us about Thanksgiving and what I am thankful for. Probably one huge thing I am thankful for is that I am not what I used to be. I could write a book, but let me just flush this out a bit. One thing we all have in common is human nature. We have a sinful nature. Of course, some may think they don't have any sin but that's sinful in itself. The determining factor is determined by measuring oneself against the only perfect person and that is Jesus Christ and the Ten Commandments. I regress. We all fall short.

When I was 20 years old, minding my own business, the janitor where I worked began quoting scripture and singing hymns while emptying my trash. Mind you, I was happy in my current sinful state. I said to him, "Pee Wee when I retire, I think I might read the Bible". Pee Wee said to me, "Well Bill, what if you don't live that long?" That's when the Lord got ahold of me. What if I don't live that long. Does it matter. What about the Ten Commandments. Is there a God and does He require anything of us. I have not been the same since.

As I began to read the Bible diligently it became obvious. I was a sinner and I needed to change. Change I did 180 degrees. I am 74 years old now and the change continues. I may not be what I should be, but I am not what I was. I was a sinner destined for hell but now I am a child of God being transform to the image of Jesus Christ and destined for His Kingdom. I have a long way to go but I have come along way. I don't pound my chest like I am better than the next guy just grateful I am not what I was.

(Luke 18:10,11,13) Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: 'God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector...But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, the sinner!'

I thank God for saving me from myself. I thank the Holy Spirit for dwelling in me and changing me. I thank Jesus Christ my Lord and Savior for shedding His blood and bearing the penalty for my sins that will grant me eternal life in His kingdom.

(1Pe 1:3 NASB) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...

Happy to know Him,
Bill

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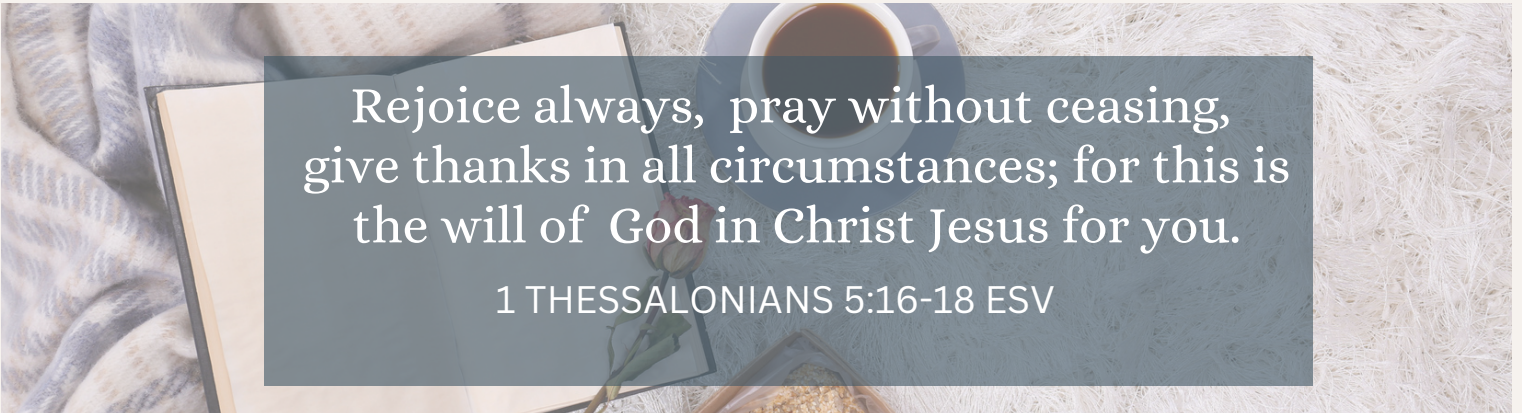
THE THEME OF THANKSGIVING

BY CHRISTINA HUTCHINSON

The Bible is replete with verses and passages that emphasize the importance of thankfulness and gratitude. At its core, the scriptures encourage believers to express gratitude not only for the blessings they receive but also in all circumstances. One of the most well-known verses on thankfulness is found in 1 Thessalonians 5:18 ESV, which states, "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." This verse underscores the idea that thankfulness should be a continuous practice, regardless of one's circumstances. It implies that gratitude is not contingent on favorable situations but is a reflection of one's faith in God's plan and provision.

The Psalms, a collection of poetic and heartfelt prayers and songs, are rich in expressions of thankfulness. Psalm 100:4 ESV says, "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name." This verse reminds me that thankfulness is a way to approach God, acknowledging His goodness and sovereignty. The Bible often associates thanksgiving with the act of prayer. Philippians 4:6-7 ESV advises believers, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." So we see that thankfulness is not just an expression of appreciation but a means of finding peace and comfort in difficult times and expressing our trust in The Lord.

I pray this Thanksgiving is a reflective time for you and your family to remember the goodness of God, His faithfulness and to be thankful for all that He is and all that He's done. God Bless.



Rejoice always, pray without ceasing,
give thanks in all circumstances; for this is
the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18 ESV



ONE MORE REASON

BY DENISHA STEARNS

This morning, I opened the Book and right away laid my eyes on this title, "I Love the Lord". My heart then quickened to read more from Psalm 116 . Psalm 116 gives one more reason (or two) to praise the Lord for what He has done, and to worship Him for who He is. It made me think of Jeremiah's words from Jeremiah 15:16 (NLT), "When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, Lord God Almighty (NLT)." Up until this point, my favorite Psalm has been Psalm 103 which gives about twenty reasons to love the Lord. Now, I can't decide which Psalm I favor more!

This thanksgiving season, here's my challenge for you: Get a pen and paper. Open the Book to Psalm 116. Make your own list! I am certain you will find one more reason to thank the Lord. And it will be one more reason to have Jesus as your honored guest at your thanksgiving table on "the big day."



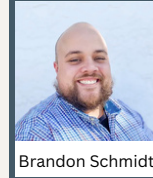
THANKFUL TO WHOM?

BY LUCAS WILLIAMS

Millions of people across the USA will celebrate Thanksgiving in a few weeks. During the time of family and food, most people will add in a moment to say what they're thankful for. But I wonder how many people will remember to Whom they should be thankful. How many people will go through the day, thanking their family, thanking their friends, and naming innumerable blessings and yet will never think to thank the Lord for them? Ultimately, God is the One to whom we should be grateful. He is the One who has blessed us immeasurably. Who could count all of the blessings that God has given us? And yet how often do we – even as His people – live our lives without pausing to thank Him? If we would remember that “Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights.” (James 1:17, LSB), we would never cease to praise Him!

Let's remember, especially as we near Thanksgiving, that God is worthy and deserving of our praise. He has given us so much to be thankful for. I pray that we will remember that it is to Him that we should be grateful, every day, for the things He's given us. Don't wait for a federal holiday to thank God – make every day a Thanksgiving day! But remember Who it is that we should thank: God, for all that He has given to us—most of all, Jesus!

Meet your hosts!



Brandon Schmidt

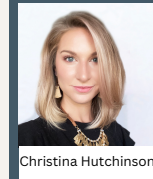
WEEK DAYS

6am - 7am

9am - 12pm

Brandon & Christina

3pm - 6pm



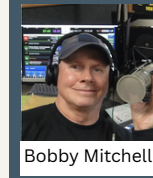
Christina Hutchinson

WEEK DAYS

12pm - 3pm

Brandon & Christina

3pm - 6pm



Bobby Mitchell

SATURDAYS

9am - 5pm



THANKFUL TO GOD

BY BRANDON SCHMIDT

In just a few weeks many of us will gather around a table with family, friends, and loved ones and enjoy an extravagant meal. Tables will be filled with turkey, ham, stuffing, mashed potatoes & gravy, carrots, green bean casserole, corn, candied yams, cranberry sauce, dinner rolls, cornbread, etc. Let's not forget the desserts like pumpkin pie, sweet potato pie, apple pie, and others. One of my favorite Thanksgivings that I will always cherish was just a few years ago. It was the first time my wife and I hosted Thanksgiving for the family. My grandparents and mother joined Jessica, Josiah and myself for a wonderful meal. It was the last Thanksgiving grandpa had outside of his house. I remember being filled with thankfulness to the Lord for a wonderful time with my family. Thanksgiving is a very special time, where we slow down and thank the Lord for His hand of blessing and providence.

For the Christian, thanksgiving should be a very special time, where we honor the Lord by offering Him praise and thanksgiving for another year of His faithful provision and protection. The book of James reminds us, “every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights...” (James 1:17). When we recognize that all of the good things in our lives, our salvation, our family, our home, even our very breath, all come from the goodness of God, it should humble us and cause us to be exceedingly grateful. I pray that this Thanksgiving your heart is reminded of God's faithfulness and lovingkindness toward you and it would cause you to worship and praise Him. God is good, all the time. And all the time, God is good!!

Don't forget about our Christmas collections that begin this month. We will be collecting once again for our nursing home residents, foster kids and teens, and for the homeless. Check out our website wjlu.org for how you can be involved and from my family to yours, Happy Thanksgiving!

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it's not about
me?



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SAVE THE DATE

NOVEMBER CHRISTMAS COLLECTIONS BEGIN

- 11.5 | Daylight Savings Ends
- 11.11 | Veterans' Day
- 11.23 | Thanksgiving Day
- 11.24 | Christmas music begins!

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Prayer Corner

As we approach this season of Thanksgiving and the joyful anticipation of Christmas, we come before You with hearts full of gratitude and hope. We thank You for the blessings in our lives, the love of family and friends, and the abundant provisions You place upon us. As we gather with loved ones, may we remember the less fortunate, extending a hand of love and kindness to those in need, spreading the message of Christ's love and compassion. Grant us the wisdom and courage to be beacons of hope in these troubled times, to sow seeds of understanding and harmony where there is discord, and to bring light where there is darkness.