



LET'S VISIT

**A Publication of the Center Church of Christ
110 Hurst Street Center, Texas 75935**

Volume 11

Number 45

November 24, 2024

REFLECTIONS ON THANKSGIVING

In I Thessalonians 5:18, Paul wrote, *"In everything give thanks"*. Well, that sounds good, but sometimes our circumstances in life are not always the best. In fact, they may be downright bad. Yet, we still are to look for something to be thankful for.

Thursday, of this week, we will celebrate what is called in this country, "Thanksgiving Day". Truth be told, there is always something positive to be thankful for. I remember reading about a woman we will call Susan. She was shoveling her driveway after a snowstorm. She paused to wave to a neighbor passing by. He asked why her husband was not helping her. She explained that one of them had to stay inside and watch their three children. She told him they drew straws to see who would have to shovel. The neighbor told her, "sorry about your bad luck." Then Susan replied, "Don't be sorry, I won!" In everything give thanks.

Even though we will celebrate Thanksgiving Day on Thursday, sometimes counting our blessings can seem like a tall order. All of us have problems that often tend to overwhelm us. If you come to know someone deeply enough, you discover that they have problems too. Usually, they too feel that their problems are the worst of all. They feel theirs must be the heaviest problems anyone could have. It is when we are in that kind of situation we all need to pause and remember our blessings.

Being negative is easy. It is simple to dwell among the negatives and focus on our problems. A sore finger or toe can dominate the whole body. In reality, it is only a small member and may not even be seriously injured. Yet, it can make us forget everything that functions normally.

We must train ourselves to focus on our blessings. We need to think about what we have and not what

we don't have. Sitting down and making a list of our blessings would be a good exercise for all of us from time to time. Once we do that, we should put the list in a prominent place where we could see it on a daily basis. In some way, we must let the positive dominate our thinking so that we are not negative minded and pessimistic.

Well, what are some things we could put on our list of blessings? What about food, clothing and shelter? Admittedly, these are very broad categories. Yet, under each one we can think of specific points worthy of our consideration. Perhaps we would think of home, family and friends. We can think of home and individual members of our family. We can think of friends and what they mean in our lives. Just think of all the blessings we enjoy. The privilege of living in this land of freedom and opportunity. The education, skill and security of physical protection that is at our disposal.

Then, what about our gratitude for the spiritual blessings we enjoy? The fact that we are children of God and that Jesus is our Savior and perfect example. The intimate personal relationship we have with our Lord is a blessing beyond description. Then there is the wonderful blessing of the church. A place where we can have fellowship with other like-minded Christians that helps us so much.

In everything give thanks!

tp

In Search of the Lord's Way



Tune in to this Television Ministry
KSHV 45 – Shreveport – 7:30 a.m. Sunday
KSLA 12 – Shreveport – 11:00 a.m. Sunday
DISH channel 373 – 7:00 a.m. Sunday
DIRECT TV channel 83 - 7:00 a.m. Sunday

Gathered Here and There



The Spirit of Thanksgiving

**For The Pantry. . .
November 24 – Peanut Butter**

Offering – November 17, 2024. . . \$ 2,732.00

The Lord's plan of giving ... "as ye have prospered"

Where Does The Time Go?

Wow, where has the time gone? The Thanksgiving Holiday is here, Christmas is "just around the corner" and then it will be New Years Day all over again. Often, the time seems to pass so rapidly it is as if someone has turned on the jet engines of our lives.

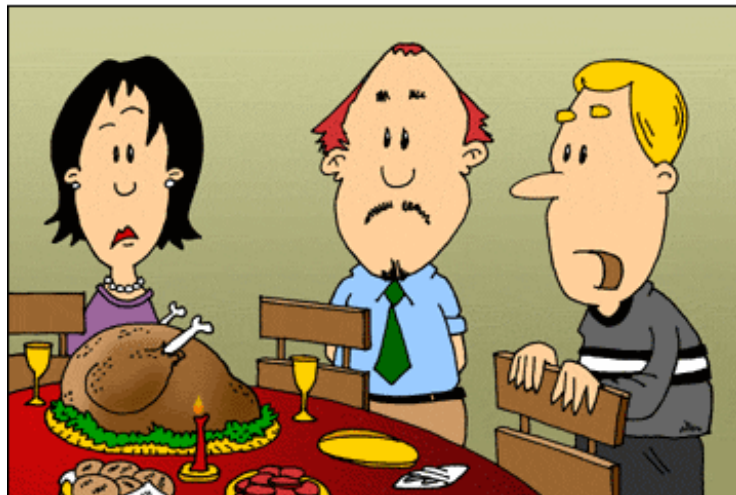
With the new year looming before us, maybe it's time to start thinking about those pesky "New Years Resolutions". I am quite sure that many of us will make some of the usual resolutions. We will enjoy too much candy and rich desserts during the holidays and we will resolve that we are going to go on a diet and exercise more during the New Year. For many of us, that will last for the first few hours of the New Year. Others, with more self-discipline and determination will probably be able to stick with that diet and exercise program for as much as a day, perhaps even two.

However, why don't we begin now to formulate some resolutions relative to spiritual things. For example, we could resolve to be more faithful in our attendance at the Bible Study and Worship hour. We could resolve that we would only say good and positive things about our home church and church family. We could resolve that we will study our Bible more, spend more time in prayer, be more supportive of the activities of the local church, become more involved in inviting others to attend

services, to live more like Jesus and let others see Jesus living in us. Really, the list is almost without limit. Why not start today formulating your resolutions for 2025 thinking about what each of us can do individually to make the church more successful?

tp

On The Lighter Side. . .



HAS IT ALREADY BEEN A YEAR SINCE WE WERE THANKFUL?

The trouble with many men is that they have got just enough religion to make them miserable. If there is not joy in religion, you have got a leak in your religion.

Billy Sunday

WWW.STOREMYPIC.COM

The individual who continues to pull on the oars does not have much time to rock the boat.



No Excuse Sunday!

Sunday, December 8, 2024 is the day set aside for our annual “No Excuse Sunday”. There will be no acceptable excuse for missing worship that day! Make your plans **NOW** to be here and bring someone or several someones to be your guest.

Of course we will be having a covered dish luncheon that day following the morning worship. Hospitality group 3 will be responsible for this luncheon. The members of that group are: LaJuan Baugh, Martha Bradshaw, Sheri Burgay, Tiffanne Klein, Trish Lout and Dee Sims.



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY! Sunday December 15, 2024

Immediately following the morning worship
in the Fellowship Hall.

Please bring finger food – think outside the box!
Men bring a gift for a man and
women bring a gift for a lady
and remember there is a \$20.00 limit on the gift.
Plan to come and have a good time!

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER!

- March 2, 2025 – “Pack-A-Pew Sunday”
- April 25-27, 2025 – Area-Wide Singing and Gospel meeting with Phil Sanders.
- June 1, 2025 – Covered Dish Luncheon

PUT THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR!
We extend our sympathy to the family of Geneva Graves who passed away last Sunday. Her services were conducted Saturday at Mangum Funeral Home.

OUR “CHURCH FAMILY”

Cissy Amos, LaJuan Baugh, Martha Jean Golden, Alice Hall, Thelma Hinton, LaResa Livingston, Mike Lout, Debra Pate, Jerry Pate, Wayne Sims, Betty Willis

“EXTENDED FAMILY” AND FRIENDS

Cody Anthony (LaResa Livingston’s nephew) Mitchell Anthony (LaResa Livingston’s brother), Jackie Barnes (Friend of Gene & Martha Bradshaw) Cohen Byrnes (infant son of Trey and Alex Byrnes) Hugh and Pat Fletcher (Sarah Fletcher’s brother and sister-in-law dealing with multiple health issues) Joyce Fontenot (Debra Pate’s mother) Geneva Harrison (Mike Bostick’s mother) Debbie Lynn (Abbey Perkins’ mother dealing with memory issues) Lamar McCormick (friend of Sarah Fletcher, multiple health issues) Kutter Milford (Cissy Amos’ grandson) Eddie Paul (Wayne Sims son-in-law) Calvin Smith (Debra Pate’s uncle); Heather Simmons Steward (Friend of Cissy Amos) cancer; J. C. Tate (Jana O’Brien’s father) Clark Paul Williams (LaResa Livingston’s cousin)

THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE

Cole Barbee, Adam Bradshaw, Andrew Bradshaw, Michele Bradshaw, Rosie Tate and Lucas Tate





Across The Preacher's Desk

After Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit, God asked Adam, "Where art thou?" When that happened, it was embarrassing to him, because he was in the wrong place and had done the wrong thing. After Cain had killed his brother Abel, God asked him, "Where is thy brother?" It was embarrassing to Cain because of his sin. In the parable of the marriage feast, when the king asked the men who did not have on a wedding garment, "Friend, how camest thou in hither not having on a wedding garment?" the man was so embarrassed that he was speechless.

We may have various excuses to offer now. However, when we stand in the presence of the great judge and he asks about our commitment and dedication, there will be no excuse that we can offer. The Lord Jesus Christ who sees everyone also knows every thought and intent of our heart.

Would it be embarrassing to you for others to know just how little you study the word of God? Would you be ashamed if others knew how little you talked about that blood-bought institution the church and how little we are concerned about its progress and what we actually give to support the church? You see, when we honestly look at ourselves, there are many things we may leave undone that we ought to do and so many things we may do wrong that would embarrass us among men. Yet, if we would be embarrassed among men, how much more will we be embarrassed before God in the judgment. Is it embarrassing to think about it? What are we really doing for the cause of Christ?

it's something to think about.....tbp

**The Lord's Plan
For Evangelism –
Each one Bring one!
54 in '24!**