



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

November 19, 2023

P.O. Box 416
129 S. Chamberlain Ave.
Rockwood, TN 37854
865-354-0855

Elders:

Kendall Bear
Dana Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Larry Brackett
Aaron Evans
Larry Hill
Steve McCreary

Minister:

Dale Barger

Service Times:

Sunday

Bible Study 10 am
Worship Service 10:45 am
Worship Service 6 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7 pm

Email:

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Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

Why Only One Day for Thanksgiving?

Charles Dickens said that we are somewhat mixed up here in America. He told an audience that instead of having one Thanksgiving Day each year we should have 364. *“Use that one day just for complaining and griping,”* he said. *“Use the other 364 days to thank God each day for the many blessings He has showered upon you.”*

Ken Hamilton

Granite church of Christ

Granite, OK

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is, in the eyes of some, esteemed as the greatest of holidays. When one thinks about the idea of thanksgiving, it is easy to appreciate the holiday as some do — being the greatest of holidays. Those who are truly thankful, however, are those who were once dead, but are now alive. The Lord spoke to the Jews and said that the hour was coming in which the dead would hear His voice and live (**John 5:25**). The Lord was not referring to the second coming, for that He does in **John 5:28-29**. The Lord referred to those who heard His voice (orally, and through the written word) and responded to His holy will. They were dead in sin, but applying the truth of God’s word to their individual lives, they are now alive spiritually (cf. **2 Corinthians 5:17**). Those who live, but were once dead, were dead in sin (**Ephesians 2:1-10**), but now are alive in Christ. This is a time for Thanksgiving.

Ron Thomas

via Highland Drive church of Christ

Poplar Bluff, MO

Thanksgiving?

Paul told the young preacher Timothy concerning the eating of food, “*for every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving*” (**1 Tim. 4:4**). That certainly includes the Thanksgiving meal that we will partake of in a few days.

But, it seems that, in this day and age, there is something fundamentally wrong with the contemporary American approach to Thanksgiving. We use the occasion of Thanksgiving to inventory our blessings and then carve the traditional turkey. When you get right down to it, there is something pretty empty and shallow with the attitude of “*I appreciate what God has done for me; therefore I will indulge myself with a big meal!*” Now, don’t get me wrong—I probably will do my share of overeating on Thanksgiving Day—but I can’t help but wonder if we are, in reality, participating in “*Thanksfeeling*” instead of genuine Thanksgiving. Real gratitude should give! What should thanksgiving really mean?

Thanksgiving means **GIVING TO GOD**. Paul stated to the Corinthians that remembering what Jesus gave for our sakes should make us want to give generously and cheerfully to God in return. (**2 Cor. 9:6-9**). The point is that thanksgiving to God should be rendered with our hearts, with our talents, with our time, and yes, even with our pocketbooks.

Thanksgiving means **GIVING TO THOSE WHO HAVE GIVEN TO US**. We all owe a debt of gratitude to those who raised us. Certainly, we should honor them (**Eph. 6:2**). Unfortunately, in our fast-paced society, many children seem unable (or unwilling) to give their parents the time they should (this is true no matter how old you or your parents are). Are we truly thankful for our parents? Then let’s demonstrate our gratitude by giving them the most valuable gift of all—ourselves. And not only our parents, but truly give back to any and all who have selflessly touched our lives (i.e. fellow Christians, teachers, friends, etc.).

Thanksgiving means **GIVING TO THOSE WHO ARE IN NEED**. Real gratitude shares. Those who have been richly blessed by God must, in turn, be a blessing to others. It’s too easy for us to look at world hunger, hardship, and the needs of so many others and excuse ourselves by saying, “*Well, I can’t help everyone.*” True, you can’t help everyone, but you can help someone (**Gal. 6:10**)! It is not enough to count our blessings; we must also share them with others.

We have so much for which to be grateful. But genuine thankfulness, genuine thanksgiving not only feels, it acts! Does your thanksgiving really give?

Edd Sterchi
Broadway church of Christ
Campbellsville, KY