

Bishop Ryle once wrote that we are prone to hide our blessings under a bushel and to set our troubles on a hill. It is so easy to focus on all that is not right in our world. Our problems can easily be magnified. Sometimes our hearts have blinders and our perspective becomes limited toward primarily the struggles and sufferings we encounter. We miss out on seeing the blessings that are all around us.

The gospel imperatives (what believers are commanded to do) in the NT are the logical responses to the gospel indicatives (what God has done for us on the basis of grace.) When I am urged to “give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus...” (I Thess. 5:18) I know that giving thanks is not merely a duty—it is medicine for my heart. It is a corrective lens for my self-focused heart so that I might see God more accurately. Thankfulness is an appropriate response to the God who has made all things for His glory.

Having a heart that offers gratitude to God is not limited to those times when everything is as it should be. The Pilgrims who landed on the shores of Massachusetts in December of 1620 suffered immense loss in their first year. (Of the 102 people who made it to the New World, only 50 remained by April of 1621.) Yet they had eyes of faith to see evidence of God’s goodness and faithfulness. They set aside a day for thanks to God.

I hope you will join us for our annual **Thanksgiving Service on Wed., Nov. 27 at 7:30pm.** It always helps me focus my heart on things beyond my struggles and toward the God Who is good. (Psalm 100:5)

**Pastor Mark Musser.**

## Thanksgiving

Remembering the goodness of God

### REKINDLE THE GRATITUDE

The Thanksgiving season is a wonderful time to heighten your sensitivity to the blessings bestowed by God. Thanksgiving grabs your attention, shakes the cobwebs loose, and reminds you of all God’s most precious gifts. That’s one reason Thanksgiving has always held such a special place in my heart. It rekindles in me the kind of God-centered gratitude that our Lord demands and deserves—the kind that should readily be on our lips year round.

To help stimulate that kind of deeper gratitude, my family has adopted a Thanksgiving tradition we’ve found extremely helpful. Each year after our Thanksgiving meal we gather in our living room and simply recite the blessings of God that have touched our lives. One by one we circle the room, each one of us expressing our gratitude to God for His many physical and spiritual blessings.

**John MacArthur.**

<http://www.gty.org/resources/articles/a236>

**Our annual Thanksgiving worship service is scheduled for Wednesday November 27, 7:30pm. Come join us as we worship our heavenly father, giving thanks to him for his many kind gifts in our lives**

### A Prayer on Praise and Thanksgiving

O My God, Thou fairest, greatest, first of all objects, my heart admires, adores, loves thee, for my little vessel is as full as it can be, and I would pour out all that fullness before thee in ceaseless flow.

When I think upon and converse with thee ten thousand delightful thoughts spring up, ten thousand sources of pleasure are unsealed, ten thousand refreshing joys spread over my heart, crowding into every moment of happiness.

I bless thee for the soul thou hast created, for adorning it, for sanctifying it, though it is fixed in barren soil; for the body thou hast given me, for preserving its strength and vigor, for providing senses to enjoy delights, for the ease and freedom of my limbs, for hands, eyes, ears that do thy bidding;

for thy royal bounty providing my daily support, for a full table and overflowing cup, for appetite, taste, sweetness, for social joys of relatives and friends, for ability to serve others, for a heart that feels sorrows and necessities, for a mind to care for my fellow-men, for opportunities of spreading happiness around, for loved ones in the joys of heaven, for my own expectation of seeing thee clearly.

I love thee above the powers of language to express, for what thou art to thy creatures. Increase my love, O my God, through time and eternity.

(Taken from Valley of Vision)

### Memory Verse for November

*Psalm 100 (ESV)*

*1 Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!*

*2 Serve the Lord with gladness!*

*Come into his presence with singing!*

*3 Know that the Lord, he is God!*

*It is he who made us, and we are his;*

*we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.*

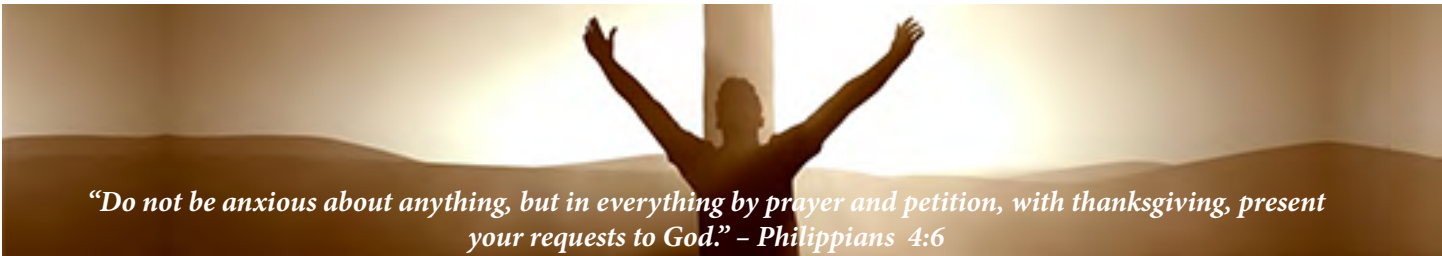
*4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!*

*Give thanks to him; bless his name!*

*5 For the Lord is good;*

*his steadfast love endures forever,*

*and his faithfulness to all generations.*



*“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” – Philippians 4:6*

## Seven Important Quotes to Read at the Thanksgiving Table

### 1. The Old 100th: The Thanksgiving Psalm of the Pilgrims

It was their deep devotion to God, commitment to sound doctrine and the pure faith which primarily motivated the Pilgrims to endure great trials and hardships for the hope of a multi-generational vision of victory. In obedience to God and to strengthen their spirits, the Pilgrims became known as people of song. They loved to sing and did so often, not only during the meeting of the church, but in the course of daily life. The Psalms were in the forefront of their musical repertoire for life, and few Psalms were as beloved as “The Old 100th.” Because books like psalters were precious and rare, they practiced a form of congregational singing in which one line would be sung or “called out” and the congregation would sing it back in unison. Here is the Old 100th, from the Geneva Bible, set to verse, Pilgrim style:

<i>Shout to Jehova all the earth,</i>	<i>It's He that made us and not we,</i>	<i>Confess to him, bless ye his name,</i>
<i>Serve ye Jehova with gladness,</i>	<i>His folk and sheep of His feeding</i>	<i>Because Jehova he Good is.</i>
<i>Enter his gates with singing mirth,</i>	<i>Oh with confession enter ye</i>	<i>His mercy ever is the same,</i>
<i>No that Jehova, he God is.</i>	<i>His gates, his courtyards with praising.</i>	<i>And his faith unto all ages. Amen.</i>

### 2. The Greatest Quote Concerning the Resolve of the Pilgrims

The simple sentence below by William Bradford is one of the most powerful in all of Christian literature, for it is a commentary on the meaning of holy risk-taking and the pursuit of righteousness and the kingdom of God: So they committed themselves to the will of God, and resolved to proceed.

### 3. William Bradford's Multi-Generational Vision

Just over fifty Pilgrims survived the first winter. But from them came more than thirty million descendants and a nation conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal and endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights. More importantly, their vision was one of holy, Christ-centered, multi-generational faithfulness.

Last and not least, they cherished a great hope and inward zeal of laying good foundations, or at least making some ways toward it, for the propagation and advance of the gospel of the kingdom of Christ in the remote parts of the world, even though they should be but stepping stones to others in the performance of so great a work.

To access the full list of 7 quotes, visit [http://www.visionforumministries.org/issues/news\\_and\\_reports/seven\\_important\\_quotes\\_to\\_read.aspx](http://www.visionforumministries.org/issues/news_and_reports/seven_important_quotes_to_read.aspx).

A Resource recommended by Vodie Bauchman.

Foolish talking and jesting are not the ways in which Christian cheerfulness should express itself, but rather “giving of thanks” (Eph. 5:4). Religion is the source of joy and gladness, but its joy is expressed in a religious way, in thanksgiving and praise.

~ Charles Hodge, principal of Princeton Theological Seminary

## Why We Need Thanksgiving

The historical basis for the Thanksgiving observance is clear. In 1621, the Pilgrims celebrated “the goodness of God” as they feasted with friendly local Indians. In reality, the Pilgrims had faced far greater adversity than had been expected. The climate was harsh, the crops were sparse, the native peoples were often hostile, and their ranks were thinning. Hunger, disease, discomfort, and discouragement were ever close at hand.

Aiming for Virginia, these Christians—dissenting from the Church of England and determined to establish a truly Christian community—actually landed in New England. That miscalculation meant that disaster was almost certain. Nevertheless, they “fell upon their knees and blessed the God of heaven who had brought them over this vast and furious ocean,” recorded Governor William Bradford.

In 1789, President George Washington declared

<http://www.albertmohler.com/2005/11/23/why-thanksgiving-matters/>

the first national day of Thanksgiving by asking Americans to “unite in most humbly offering our prayer and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of nations.”

Secularized Americans are driven by no impulse to give thanks, and wouldn't know to whom thanks should be addressed. They think of themselves as self-sufficient, self-directed, and self-reliant. Their horizon of thankfulness is, to say the least, rather low.

The civic holiday may not mean a great deal to many moderns—but that doesn't mean that it is meaningless. At the very least, it implies that we cannot really take care of ourselves. That is just as true today as it was in Pilgrim New England. Christians understand that the call to thanksgiving is far more urgent than a holiday, and far more important than the calendar. True thanksgiving cannot be limited to a day or a season. We recognize that God has given us

everything that we have—and everything that we need. We acknowledge our unconditional dependence upon Him for every second of our lives, every morsel we will eat, and every joy we will ever experience.

Deserving nothing but God's wrath, we were granted forgiveness through the Son. Needing all things, we have been given everything needful for our salvation and eternal life. To these God has added joys, comforts, and provision beyond our imagination—“far more abundantly than all that we ask or think.” [Ephesians 3:20]

So, gather together to give thanks to God. While others celebrate “Turkey Day” and ponder poultry, direct your thoughts to the God of Heaven, by whose hand we have been brought near and given more than we can even remember. The Pilgrims knew to whom they were praying—and why. Let's follow their example and remember that their dependence upon God was no greater than our own.

# NOVEMBER 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Fusion Youth Group  Ignite Youth Group	2
3 Sunday School @ 9:45 A.M.  Worship Service @ 11 A.M.	4	5	6 Mid-Week Bible Study and Prayer	7 Women's Bible Study in Philip-pians	8 Fusion Youth Group  Ignite Youth Group  Roeder/Losak Growth Group	9 Men In The Morning
10 Sunday School @ 9:45 A.M.  Worship Service @ 11 A.M.	11	12	13 Mid-Week Bible Study and Prayer	14 Women's Bible Study in Philip-pians	15 Fusion Youth Group  Ignite Youth Group	16
17 Sunday School @ 9:45 A.M.  Worship Service @ 11 A.M.	18	19	20 Mid-Week Bible Study and Prayer	21 Women's Bible Study in Philip-pians  Harrigan/Tedesco Growth Group	22 Fusion Youth Group  Ignite Youth Group  Roeder/Losak Growth Group	23 Men In The Morning
24 Sunday School @ 9:45 A.M.  Worship Service @ 11 A.M.	25	26	27 Thanksgiving worship service @ 7:30pm	28	29 Fusion Youth Group  Ignite Youth Group	30