

Thursday, November 15, 2018

To My Victory Baptist Church Family,

This weekend and especially next week, people all across America will be celebrating Thanksgiving holiday.

I remember in the days of my youth being so excited about Thanksgiving. Those memories centered themselves mostly around food, and gathering together with family and friends. As I got a little older, so did my focus on the Thanksgiving holiday. Today, I find myself dwelling on, and thinking about Thanksgiving itself, and about being truly thankful for all the things my Heavenly Father has been so faithful and loving to provide for my family and I.

I can't help but chuckle at the following list that several housewives compiled of things that they were thankful for. They wrote that they were especially thankful:

"For automatic dishwashers because they make it possible for us to get out of the kitchen before the family comes back in for their after-dinner snacks."

"For husbands who attack small repair jobs around the house because they usually make them big enough to call in the professionals."

"For children who put away their things and clean up after themselves. They're such a joy you hate to see them go home to their own parents."

"For teenagers because they give parents an opportunity to learn a second language."

"For Smoke alarms because they let you know when the turkey's done."

I read somewhere that Alex Haley, the author of "Roots," had an unusual picture hanging on his office wall. It was a picture of a turtle on top of a fence post. When asked, "Why is that there?" Alex Haley answered, "Every time I write something significant, every time I read my words & think that they are wonderful, & begin to feel proud of myself, I look at the turtle on top of the fence post & remember that he didn't get there on his own. He had help." That is the basis of thankfulness - to remember that we got here with the help of God, and that He is the provider of every blessing we have.

The word "thanksgiving" is used in the Bible 39 times, all in the Old Testament.

The word "thanks" is used 108 times, also all in the Old Testament.

The word "praise" is used 195 times in the Bible, 169 times in the OT, 26 times in the New Testament.

The word "thank" or "thanks" and the word "praise" are used interchangeably, and those two words are used together in the same verse at least 20 times.

For example:

Psalm 7:17, "I will give thanks to the LORD according to His righteousness and will sing praise to the name of the LORD Most High."

Psalm 30:4, "Sing praise to the LORD, you His godly ones, and give thanks to His holy name."

Psalm 30:12, "That my soul may sing praise to You and not be silent O LORD my God, I will give thanks to You forever."

Psalm 69:30, "I will praise the name of God with song and magnify Him with thanksgiving."

Psalm 79:13, "So we Your people and the sheep of Your pasture will give thanks to You forever; to all generations we will tell of Your praise."

Psalm 92:1, "It is good to give thanks to the LORD and to sing praises to Your name, O Most High..."

Psalm 100:4, "Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name."

Psalm 106:1, "Praise the LORD! Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; For His lovingkindness is everlasting."

Psalm 106:47, "Save us, O LORD our God, and gather us from among the nations, to give thanks to Your holy name and glory in Your praise."

Psalm 109:30, "With my mouth I will give thanks abundantly to the LORD; and in the midst of many I will praise Him."

Psalm 111:1, "Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with all my heart, in the company of the upright and in the assembly."

Daniel 2:23, "To You, O God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise, for You have given me wisdom and power; even now You have made known to me what we requested of You, for You have made known to us the king's matter."

Hebrews 13:15, "Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name."

That's really the basis of thanksgiving, isn't it? We are to praise God, and to be thankful for everything He has so faithfully given to us. Hallelujah!

We are set to have a very busy and a very productive weekend in and around Victory Baptist Church. On Saturday we will gather together at Hillcrest Community Center and help our community celebrate Thanksgiving. Last year, we had over 800 people attend this banquet, and we need everybody's assistance to help us pull this off. Then Sunday I will be preaching my annual State of the Church address, where I will be challenging all who are in attendance, myself

included, to dare to trust God to do in us and through us in 2019 what we cannot do on our own. After the Morning Worship Service, we will celebrate Thanksgiving with our Victory Baptist Church family. Please bring enough food for your family plus one more so that we are sure to have enough.

In addition to all that, here is a partial list of events and happenings in and around the Victory Baptist Church family that hopefully will be an encouragement to you and your family:

Sunday, November 18, 2018

8:00 am - Prayer

9:15 am - Sunday School & Bible Study

10:30 am - Morning Worship

"The State of the Church"

Jr. Church for kids age 3 thru grade 3.

Nursery available for infants

12:00 pm - Churchwide Thanksgiving Carry-In Banquet

6:00 pm - Adult Small Groups:

Final session of "The Last Days" led by Mike Roberts.

Men's Group led by Glenn McLain will NOT meet tonight.

Monday, November 19, 2018

10:00 am - Prayer

6:30 pm - Missions Monday

Tuesday, November 20, 2018

8:30 am - MOPS Group

7:00 pm - Quarterly Business (Budget) Meeting

Wednesday, November 21, 2018

6:00 pm - Kids 4 Christ & ALIVE are CANCELLED tonight.

I sure hope to see you this weekend as we worship Almighty God together. God is sooooo good! Please come to worship with a Bible in your hands, and excitement in your heart. God is an awesome God, and He is worthy of all of our praise and our worship.

Pastor Larry