



Richard Hughes, Editor

An outreach of Richard Hughes Ministries, Inc.

The Pen of a Ready Writer

*...I speak of the things which I have made touching the king:
My tongue is the Pen of a Ready Writer (Psalm 45:1).*

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For Whom Are You THANKFUL?

My parents come to my mind. I am thankful for my Dad and for my Mom. I only have early memories of her. Her name was Helen. She died while I was young. They divorced, not for infidelity. They had a major disagreement. Mom was the oldest of her siblings. Her mother died giving birth the youngest. She became the stand-in for her mother to those kids.

At the time Dad married her, her father had a stroke. He moved in and became the bread-winner for a large family at 17. After I was born, Dad made plans for us to have our own home, figuring that her siblings were old enough to care for themselves. She could not bring herself to leave them until the last had moved on. They separated.

After Mom died, Dad remarried. The lady he married, Kay, knew that Dad had the two youngest children of four still at home, my sister Carol and myself. She had determined to care for us. I remember the day Dad pulled up across the street from the old house. We were on the porch. He got out, opened the back door to the car. Looked at us. We walked down those steps, crossed the street and got into the car. We took nothing with us but the clothes on our back. Dad and Kay provided everything.

When I speak of Mother, I speak mostly of Kay. She did everything a mother would do for me. Though waters were rough at times, I can truly say that God has provided me with two women, precious to my heart, that I gladly call, *Mother*.

No man is an island entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main...John Donne penned those words in his "Meditation 17" on death: If a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less...any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind. And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.

God's Spirit had the Apostle Paul write the same sentiment many years before Donne: *For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living (Romans 14:7-9).* Have you acknowledged who Christ is and believed upon his name?

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Vickie Wilkerson
Hughes

It's My Desire to be Like Jesus

Thanksgiving is right around the corner. As we prepare for family-get-togethers and spending time with our family, let us find the things for which we are truly thankful. Even though this world is faced with the most trying times that I have ever seen, I know that God has

not been taken by surprise. I know I have to look up; and so, I choose to be thankful for my life and for what God has given to me: my salvation and my family and so much more! As Psalm 107:1 declares, *O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.*

I have lived over two-thirds of my life. In whatever time God has left for me to serve him in this life, my desire is to be a loving wife, a loving mother, and a loving Nana. I want to share my love for the Lord with my precious family that God has given to me. I want to praise the Lord for his saving grace, for his goodness and for his wonderful mercy and grace.

As I face the remaining years that God has for me, I am reminded of a beautiful song we often sang when I was younger: *It's my desire to live for Jesus / It's my desire to be just like Him; / Though often I've failed Him and / Brought Him much shame, / It's my desire to live for Him.*

No greater way to thank the Lord Jesus for what he has done than to let him have his way in us.

A Thanksgiving Day Challenge

Prayerfully consider the following challenge. Vickie told me about it, and we plan to use it with our family, sharing our praises this year.

Write down the things for which you are most thankful over the years.

Place each "blessing" on a separate slip of paper, fold it and place it in a bowl.

While the family is seated and before the Thanksgiving meal begins, pass the bowl around the table.

Have each member of the family choose one piece of paper and read it aloud.

You will need to write down enough of these "praises" for each member to read at least one.

If the family is smaller, pass the bowl several times.

See what God may do!

Considering the various uses of CALLED...

The Apostle Paul described himself as a servant of Jesus Christ, *called* to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God, concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord (Romans 1:1-2). To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, *called* to saints in their conduct (Romans 1:7). We know that from what Paul said to the church at Corinth: *...unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours* (1 Corinthians 1:2).

We are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all (Hebrews 10:10). Jesus died once; he died for all. God wants us to know the hope of his calling, what is the riches of the glory of his inheritance and the exceeding greatness of his power toward us who believe (Ephesians 1:18-19).

God is faithful, by whom ye were *called* unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord (1 Corinthians 1:9). And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are *called* in one body; and be ye thankful (Colossians 3:15).