



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).

VOL. 14, NO. 11

NOVEMBER, 2023

TRUE THANKSGIVING

Think back. What made you truly thankful? Taking things for granted, treating people as though they owed you whatever it is they do for you – those things are easy. They come naturally. We were born that way. We are selfish, self-centered and arrogant when left to ourselves. It takes training, discipline and a change of heart to be truly thankful. That change comes from God's Spirit, who makes us a new creature in Christ.

In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln named the last Thursday in November a national holiday. Thanksgiving had already become an annual fall tradition. What hardships did the early Pilgrims face that forged a thankful heart?

They had set sail for the New World in September, 1620. Three months later, in late December of that year, they anchored at Plymouth Rock. "More than half the settlers fell ill and died that first winter, victims of an epidemic of disease that swept the new colony" [Harold M. Lambert/Kean, Plymouth Colony, History.com, December 18, 2009; updated June 27, 2023, (accessed 27-10-2023)]. Would survival make you thankful?

The Apostle Paul writes to young Timothy and declares the following: *This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into this world to save sinners; of whom I am chief* (1 Timothy 1:15). Jesus Christ saves sinners. People who know that they are sinners and who understand the penalty for their sin.

The Lord saves people who become grateful for their salvation. These are people who appreciate, from the depth of their hearts, the sacrifice he made on the cross. They are convicted people: convicted by the Spirit of God and the Word of God. Convicted of their conduct, their attitude, their anger, their lust, their lies, their laziness. They are convicted of their sin; and, they have willfully turned to Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Paul considered himself the chief of sinners. I think we all do. The fact that God saves sinners is faithful to the Old Testament, beginning with Adam and Eve and highlighted by God's reasoning with Cain (Genesis 4:5-7). This truth is worthy of all acceptance, for all of us are sinners. By Adam, sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and, so, death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned (Romans 5:12).

The good news: God saves sinners. Christ took the handwriting of ordinances that was against us and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross. Will you accept his gift?



Vickie Wilkerson
Hughes

Just Being Thankful

I cannot believe that Thanksgiving is right around the corner. I love this time of the year because it is the time that our family gets together and we enjoy a time of fellowship and good food. I love to cook, and I enjoy seeing and hearing everyone around the home. It is a time of thankfulness.

As I reflect on the things that I am most thankful for, they would be (1) my salvation, (2) God's daily provisions, (3) for prayer and that God hears and answers my prayers, (4) thankful that God has his hands on my life, (5) so very thankful for Richard and what he means to me (6) my wonderful children (7) my delightful and wonderful grandchildren that bring so much joy into my life.

Jimmy Swaggart wrote a song many years ago: *Thank you, Lord, for saving my soul; Thank you, Lord, for making me whole. Thank you, Lord, for giving to me, Thy great salvation so rich and free!*

The first recorded time our Lord said, "I thank thee, O Father," it was that babes could understand God's salvation (Matthew 11:25). How wonderful!

The RULE whereby We Walk

The Apostle Paul stated it at the close of his letter to Galatia. He pronounced a prayer of peace and mercy upon all who walk according to this rule and upon the Israel of God. What is that rule? God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ...for in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creature (Galatians 6:14-16).

Pray for Israel... But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine. When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee (Isaiah 43).

God's Witnesses... Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour. I have declared, and have saved, and I have shewed, when there was no strange god among you: therefore ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, that I am God (Isaiah 43:10-12).

Homecoming Sunday, November 19th Calvary Baptist Church Salley/Wagner, SC

The Lord has a way of giving special friends along our journey. Pastor Joey Curado is one such friend.

I thank the Lord for his heart for souls and for his dedication to his calling.

This Thanksgiving week will begin with a very special day: Homecoming at Calvary Baptist Church, in Salley, SC.

I look forward to being with them and count it an honor to preach the services that day.

By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name (Hebrews 13:15).