

Text: Ps 100.1-5

Today we are going to have one of my shortest messages ever! I don't want to keep you from your dessert! (It's a good thing I am not between you and the door!)

We are gathered together on Thanksgiving Day, a day almost everyone in our country keeps in one way or another. Most of us are aware of the many blessings we have simply living in such a free country as Canada.

We count our blessings – there are so many. Compared to some nations:

- We have access to high quality health care
- We have a high standard of living (even for those who are poorest among us)
- We have freedom of the press, of religion, of speech
- We have police forces, fire departments, military forces – all meant to keep us and our freedoms secure and safe
- And much more...

I'm going to read a psalm that is called "A Psalm for Thanksgiving," Psalm 100

Read Psalm 100

Now, I want you to think about this question:

When you give thanks, to whom do you give thanks?

I. The personality implied by thanksgiving

A. Notice that I asked, "to whom"

1. It is impossible to give thanks to an impersonal force or object
2. Thanksgiving can only be given to a person

B. Thanksgiving is not the same as 'feeling thankful'

1. Some who deny God might insist that all that such a day as thanksgiving requires is a 'thankful' attitude
2. It begs the question, however: to whom are you thankful
 - a. A child may be thankful for a warm home provided by the hard work of his parents
 - b. Everyone may be thankful for the hard work of those who prepare a thanksgiving meal

- c. Someone who has not much to give may be thankful to those who provide a warm bed, a hot meal, or some other need
 - d. A worker might be thankful for an employer who provides an opportunity to earn his bread
3. But a thankful feeling can only be expressed to a person: to someone outside yourself

II. The blessings granted to all men that require thanksgiving

- A. Life – you didn't work it up yourself, it was given to you
- B. Air to breath – another blessing granted to you by someone else
- C. Food to eat – a blessing dependent on good crops, good weather, many other factors out of individual control
- D. Canadian Thanksgiving
 - 1. In keeping with loyal anti-American sentiments, we like to note that Martin Frobisher celebrated the first North American Thanksgiving in 1578, thanking God for a safe passage to the New World
 - 2. First Canadian celebrations came to Nova Scotia in the 1750s, especially in 1763 celebrating the end of the Seven Years War
 - 3. Official Thanksgiving Day proclaimed by Parliament in 1879 as "a day of General Thanksgiving to Almighty God for the bountiful harvest with which Canada has been blessed"

The point is, to whom are you thankful on Thanksgiving Day? You can't be thankful to a rock. You can't be thankful to a force. You can't even be thankful to a nation, as such. You must be thankful to a person.

III. The blessings reserved for redeemed men that bring forth thanksgiving

- A. The Lord created us, but we turned from him
- B. The Lord redeemed us (overcame our sin problem, and enables us to turn back to him
- C. The Lord waits to receive us if we will receive him

To whom are you thankful?