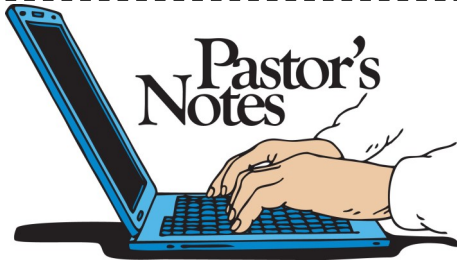


The Sentinel-November 2017



THANKS FOR WHAT?

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice, and let them say among the nations, "The LORD reigns!" Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it! Then shall the trees of the forest sing for joy before the LORD, for He comes to judge the earth. Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever! 1 Chronicles 16:31-34

On November 23rd, America will "officially" stop to count its blessings. Actually, I ought to say that day is when *most* Americans count their blessings. I say most, because, according to a new study done by LifeWay Research, there are those who just don't do a lot of thanking. Instead, their survey said that seven percent of Americans don't offer up any thanks on Thanksgiving Day. Another four percent said they don't thank God, or family, or anybody else, for that matter. Two percent said they have nothing for which to be thankful. I'll guess they're a lot of fun to have at the "grownup" table.

That being said, the giving of thanks remains important to the vast majority of our people *and*, even though the Lord has been insulted by society and shoved to the side by various groups, most of us still give thanks to our God for all He has done for us.

Now that doesn't mean we're all thankful for the same thing. We're not. For example, if you are 65 or older, you are most likely thankful for family (92 percent) and good health (86 percent). A lot lower on your list would be things like "fun experiences." On the other hand, if you are 25 or younger, you are likely to really value those fun experiences (70 percent) and your own personal achievements (61 percent).

So, these differences may lead us to ask, "Is there any common place where age groups come together and show an appreciative attitude?" The answer is yes. No, it's not in offering thanks for money or even a good job. Nor do most folks wish to show their gratitude for friends and a comfortable home. That which brings together young and old, rich and poor, educated and self-taught is --*can you guess--* family. It's in our families that we do our best and most frequent arguing, but it's also in our families that we find love, understanding and compassion. Maybe that explains why 80 percent of people put "family" at the top of their list. Following up were things like health (77 percent), personal freedom (72 percent), and friends (71 percent).

Since we looked at the top of the list, perhaps you're dying to find out what was at the bottom of people's lists for appreciation. Well, it's not what I would have thought. However, occupying the lowest spot is wealth.

Now, I don't know how you would have answered those pollsters if they had called you. But I most certainly pray you would have insisted they put "Jesus" into their list. Truly, if you have the Savior and all the blessings His sacrificial life has won by way of His cross and empty tomb, you have everything you need--and I mean everything! Without the Christ, well, the other blessings, while still wonderful, somehow don't shine as bright--especially that beautiful gift of eternal life.

So, the question is before us again: Thanks for what?

Therefore, as we enter this month of November and journey towards our National Holiday of Thanksgiving, let's give thanks to our Living Lord **always**, *for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever!*

Have a Blessed Thanksgiving, family!

Pastor Seehafer