

NOT ANOTHER THANKSGIVING ARTICLE!

Yes, I'm afraid so; another one. Amid all of the festivities, the turkey, the pumpkin pies, the decorations, the presents, the close proximity to the in-laws, and everything else that goes with the holiday season, we must not forget to be thankful. It is always fitting to remember that "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above..." (James 1:17), but most especially during these times of merriment. However, let us look beyond the obvious for something else that we should be thankful for.

Let us be thankful for the congregation that we have here in Killeen. Barely five years ago it did not even exist. Now it is firmly established in the community, standing for the truth. We have a solid base of committed members. We have several good teachers, both for the adult classes and the children's classes. We have several people that are active in visiting and teaching outside of the building. Speaking of the building, we have a very nice one that will accommodate much growth. We have many young families with many, many children, and a few grey heads to keep us on the right track. We have a full-time preacher, great song leaders, and more visitors than we can shake a stick at. Have you stopped to consider how blessed you are to be a part of this? Oh we are not perfect. We do not have elders, and we need them. Not every member is working like they could. Not everyone is as committed as they should be. But let us all be thankful for what we have here, and at the same time decide to be a better example and a more diligent worker in the future. That is, after all, what God wants.

There are many other things that often get overlooked: our families (even the in-laws), our friends and our health. We need to remember how great our country is, and not forget those who defend it. We should be thankful for the opportunities we have to do good in the world, however small they may seem. Then there are the difficult times in life, we should be thankful for those too. James writes, "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience." (James 1:2-3). It is most certainly difficult to do, but we need to learn to look beyond the immediate situation and see the good that can come. Be thankful for the opportunity to forgive someone. Yes, that's right. Not to gloat over them, but because it means that someone has repented! We should rejoice just like the angels in heaven do. I am sure that you can think of many other things to be thankful for. Make the effort, and take the time to thank God and those around you for these great things.

MJW