



# Sermon Series Notes

## Thanksgiving and Communion Colossians 3:12-17

Ryan Marr - GS3371

Thanksgiving is either a time of enjoyment or frustration. The object of thanksgiving is not the turkey or pie it's about the relationships. That's what makes the holiday's so difficult. Either these relationships are fractured, bruised, lost or they are new, joyful and refreshing.

For example, there are some in here tonight that can't wait to be with your group of friends and family tomorrow. Others of you will be asking can I please stay here longer I don't want to go to that place. Some are saying has been 30 min this message is the longest message I ever heard. Some of you are saying please can we meet here tomorrow- All Day

### I. Thanksgiving!

#### A. Thanksgiving as an Event-

##### 1. The First Thanksgiving- Very Little was known

A Pilgrim named Edward Winslow wrote a letter back to an acquaintance in England in which he sketched how the passengers of the *Mayflower* had fared since their arrival at Plymouth. In the course of that letter, which was published as part of pamphlet in 1622, Winslow included a 115-word description of the event we now remember as the "First Thanksgiving."

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*Our harvest being gotten in, our Governor sent four men on fowling; that so we might, after a more special manner, rejoice together, after we had gathered the fruit of our labours. They four, in one day, killed as much fowl as, with a little help besides, served the Company almost a week. At which time, amongst other recreations, we exercised our Arms; many of the Indians coming amongst us. And amongst the rest, their greatest King, Massasoyt, with some ninety men; whom, for three days, we entertained and feasted. And they went out, and killed five deer: which they brought to the Plantation; and bestowed on our Governor, and upon the Captain, and others.*

##### 2. The story wasn't discovered until 1841

for most of the first 220 years after the Pilgrims' 1621 harvest celebration, almost no Americans remembered it...It became a part of popular historical memory not in 1621 but in 1841, the year that Edward Winslow's account of the Pilgrims' harvest celebration reentered the historical record.

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### 3. What is know about Thanksgiving came much later-

In 1889 (Jane Austin) this fifty-eight-year-old New England wife and mother penned *Standish of Standish: A Story of the Pilgrims*, and in the process created a stereotypical view of the First Thanksgiving that has lasted for generations.... Austin embellished the historical record with a vengeance...My own (conservative) guess would be that 99 percent of the material in this chapter is pure invention.

R.Tracy Mckenzie, Professor of History at Wheaton College  
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### B. Thanksgiving became a holiday in 1863.

expressing gratitude for a pivotal Union Army victory at Gettysburg, President [Abraham Lincoln](#) announces that the nation will celebrate an official [Thanksgiving](#) holiday on November 26, 1863.

<http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/lincoln-proclaims-official-thanksgiving-holiday>

**How is that a holiday where very little is known about the real events take on a shape of such a great magnitude and speaks to a culture about an attitude that we all should have.**

### II. Thanksgiving- The heart of people-

Thanksgiving is something that all of us want! Thanksgiving is something that all of us are fighting for!

Thanksgiving forces us to look at what we have and what we have not and we learn to find gratitude in that... (Family, Food, Football, Friends,) However with all of this, it is still lacking. Thanksgiving is simply giving gratitude to the the object that it finds it's Joy.

It's really what we all want!!! (why else would we wait outside in a line for hours in the middle of the night)

A. Thanksgiving is a response!

1. Giving thanks because what God has done-

12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.

Colossians 1:12

2. Giving Thanks is an acknowledgement of what God has done

3 We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,  
4 since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints;

Colossians 1:3-4

3. Giving thanks gives us an ability to show forgiveness to others

15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

Colossians 3:15

4. Our Work and Speech should recognize should show the object of our Thankfulness- **Through him?CHRIST V.17**

17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Colossians 1:17

Thankfulness is a recognition above all that we are truly Blessed by God and frees us from the praise of **OTHERS V.12-13**

Luke 17:10

11 Now it happened as He went to Jerusalem that He passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee. 12 Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. 13 And they lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"

14 So when He saw them, He said to them, " Go, show yourselves to the priests." And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed.

15 And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, 16 and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan.

17 So Jesus answered and said, " Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? 18 Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?" 19 And He said to him, " Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well."

Thankfulness is the response to what God has done. May you be thankful from your heart for what God has done for you.

## II. Thanksgiving and Communion-

Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, " Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins