

Pastor Brian's  
Mid Week Message  
November 27, 2019

## THANK WHO?

I probably don't have to remind you that tomorrow is Thanksgiving...well, maybe I do need to remind our Canadian members as Thanksgiving in the Great White North is celebrated in early October, before the polar bears take over the grocery stores. On that note, it just doesn't seem fair that our north of the border brothers and sisters get to celebrate twice, but then again, you can never be TOO thankful. Over the past 10 years I've noticed that the trend in attendance of worship services at Thanksgiving has been steadily declining. I was saddened to learn that my previous congregation out in Spokane, Washington will not be offering a Thanksgiving worship service this year. Fewer and fewer people are going to the house of the Lord to express their thankfulness for God's good and perfect gifts (see James 1:17). So then, I have to wonder...what's the point of Thanksgiving. If we aren't saying thanks to the Lord for His goodness just who then are we thanking? Who else is worthy of our thanks? The roots of Thanksgiving go all the way back to October of 1621 as the "Pilgrims" from England gave thanks to God for their first harvest near what now is Plymouth, Massachusetts. The Canadians seem to think that their Thanksgiving traditions date back even farther, but we can debate the veracity of that claim at some other time. The key here is that from the very beginning the thanks in Thanksgiving has been directed at the One who truly deserves our thanks; our Triune God, Father Son and Holy Spirit. For it is God and God alone who gives life, and that applies to everyone whether they like it or not. It is God and God alone who provides all that we need to live out our lives and freely offers His protection from the evil aimed at us by our enemy the devil. It is God and God alone, in the person of His Son Jesus Christ, who has rescued us from the power of sin...our sin... death and the devil and delivered us into the marvelous eternal light and life of His Kingdom. It is God and God alone who brings life out of death and places His Spirit within us as a guarantee of our salvation and life eternal. We can most certainly thank others and be thankful for the good that they do in our lives, but behind all of that it is God who is at work empowering all acts of loving kindness. So, as we gather for worship and at whatever table that we find ourselves this Thanksgiving let us keep God where He rightly belongs in all of it, as the object and center of our thanks and thanksgiving. If we have the occasion to share our time and a meal with friends and relatives who are outside the Christian faith it makes for a wonderful opportunity to direct the attention to our loving Lord and speak of His love and grace. If one of these evangelical opportunities should present itself remember always to speak and act with gentleness and respect. And to thank God for it.