

November 2022

The Lighthouse

THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving is a national holiday in the United States and Canada (though we do not observe it on the same day). There are other countries with similar holidays and observances.

In the United States, Thanksgiving was celebrated by individual states from the time of the founding fathers. In 1863, President Lincoln called for Thanksgiving in all States by Presidential proclamation. In 1941 FDR signed a joint resolution of congress setting the fourth Thursday of November as the date of the national Thanksgiving holiday.

It is great that we have yearly holiday to remind us to be thankful and grateful for our blessings from God. But, for the Christian, thanksgiving and gratitude are called for 365 days a year. I like how the Heidelberg Catechism puts it in its first two questions...

1. Q. What is your only comfort in life and death?

A. That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death, to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood, and has set me free from all the power of the devil. He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, all things must work together for my salvation. Therefore, by His Holy Spirit He also assures me of eternal life and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for Him.

2. Q. What do you need to know in order to live and die in the joy of this comfort?

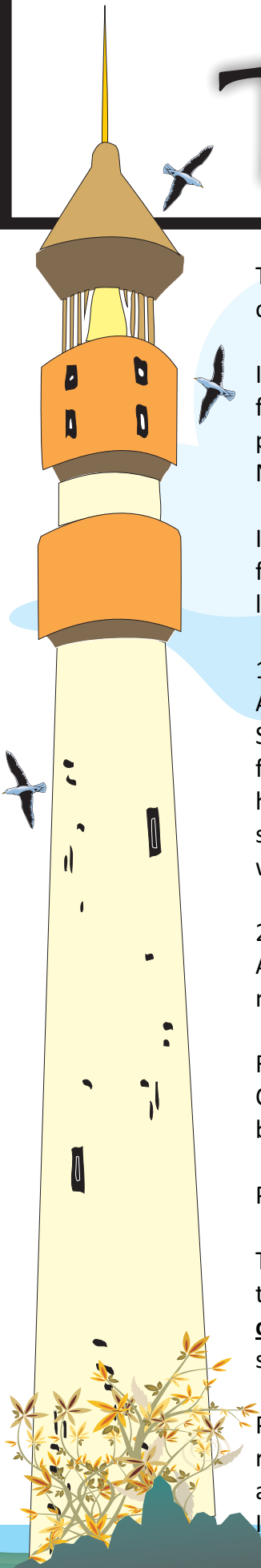
A. First, how great my sins and misery are; second, how I am delivered from all my sins and misery; third, how I am to be thankful to God for such deliverance.

Recognizing your sin and misery and understanding that you can only be delivered by Jesus Christ are the first steps in becoming a Christian. The third thing we must know, "how I am to be thankful to God for such deliverance", speaks to how we live as Christians.

Patrick Henry said it well, "Thanksgiving is good, thanks-living is better."

This is exactly what Paul talks about in Romans 12:1 and why I am preaching this Luke passage to you today. In Romans 12:1, Paul writes, "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, **by the mercies of God**, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship."

Paul wants us to remember the mercies of God he has been expounding in Romans 1-11 and respond appropriately. How can we show our gratitude for all that he has freely done for us and given us in Christ? Present our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God. Isaac Watts echoes this sentiment in "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross:



See, from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and Sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine
That were an offering far too small!
Love so amazing, so divine
Demands my soul, my life, my all!

If we know our sin and misery without Christ, and understand the great lengths to which he went to save us, we cannot help but be grateful and offer ourselves to him as servants, to do whatever he asks.

Are you having trouble living as a Christian? Are you struggling with a particular temptation? Take some time to remember Christ and the cross and how he became sin for sinners there. A hymn that I enjoy is Stricken, Smitten and Afflicted by Thomas Kelly. In the third stanza he writes:

“Ye who think of sin but lightly nor suppose the evil great
here may view its nature rightly, here its guilt may estimate.
Mark the sacrifice appointed, see who bears the awful load;
'tis the Word, the Lord's Anointed, Son of Man and Son of God.”

Jesus suffered and died on the cross to free us from sin, not for us to wallow in it. Do we truly grasp what Christ has done for us? And are we truly grateful for it and all the blessings we receive from him?

Grace & Peace,

Tim

*And now, a note from
Romania...*

Thank you for being part of our team and participating in the ministry in Romania.

[View this email in your browser](#)



Relief or Restoration?

Do you ever feel everything is falling apart at the same time? Do you ever feel like a plastic bag? (I'm sure you have heard the song by Katy Perry). Are you needing a break, or looking for relief? I'm sure that we are not the only ones feeling this way.

Back at the beginning of September, I began to pull the floor out of our kitchen because I noticed moisture wicking up the wall and causing the paint to fall. I had honestly been putting this off for a while, I guess I was in denial. I didn't want to confront a leaking pipe buried in a concrete floor. Not just one leak, but two as it turns out. Holes in concrete walls that need repair. The floor is still not back in the living room and kitchen. We thought we could reuse the flooring, but it turns out that we will have to replace all of the flooring.

The wind was blowing so hard a couple of weeks back that it began to rip the roofing off the garage. Now I need to replace the garage roof.

Shannon calls me from the store a couple of days after the garage roof incident and tells me the car is acting up and maybe unsafe and needs to be fixed NOW! It would be super inconvenient without a car. The car issues were resolved quickly and were far more expensive than I anticipated.

Shannon begins having some health challenges that have been going on for 4 weeks now.

A simple thing, our food processor bites the dust just when we are trying to prepare food for a conference.

Long and stressful days. Problems on top of problems. I just want to relax and watch a movie or some brainless TV series. I need relief! OR, I think I need relief.

I was listening to a book recently that challenged the idea of relief and suggested that what I really need is Restoration.

As I reflected on how I felt after participating in various activities hoping to bring relief, I found that I was in the same state that I was in before, both mentally and spiritually. I wanted something more, I needed more. The temporary plastic activities were not serving me well. I needed something restorative. I needed something real.

It was suggested in the book that I was listening to that I fix my eyes on something permanent, created by God the father. I then began my morning devotion sitting in front of the window watching the clouds roll and the leaves rustle in the trees. Can you imagine what I found? I found the restorative work of creation in my heart and soul lifting me out of my navel-gazing. The heavens truly declare God's glory.

How are doing? Are you looking for relief or restoration? I trust that our loving Father will lead you into His restorative embrace as you delight in His handiwork all around us.

If you are inclined to **pray** for our family and ministry, please keep the things above in mind and also the points below.

- **Our beloved friends and teammates**, Brasov and Odessa, also experience their own issues, problems, or setbacks. **Pray** for peace within and without.
- **The church in Romania** will remain strong in its desire to grow, serve, and encourage one another and the community.
- We are hosting another church **family conference** this weekend, discussing communication and conflict resolution. **Pray** for soft hearts and an openness to the Gospel.
- **Fall Festival** is another activity that our church will host on November 17. **Pray** that the Father's love will overflow into the community.
- **We are thankful** for the privilege of representing you in Romania and being a part of the growing church universal. We are grateful for those that invest faithfully in the ministry of Romania.



Locatie: Pensiunea Greenhill
Strada Dealul Spirii 35, Braşov

Vorbitori: Adi si Ema Ban
Tema: Comunicare si rezolvarea conflictelor

Weekend-ul va include:

- Seminarii zilnice
- Mesele si cazare
- Jocuri + exerciții
- Grija copiilor



Perioada: 18:00, Vineri, 28 - 30 Octombrie, 14:00

Sign up: email: tldro@gmail.com

Data limita inscriere: 23 Octombrie

Please pray for this weekend's family conference.
That it would be restorative to all those that attend.

The pictures below are a peek into what we have been dealing with for the past two months. We did the majority of the work ourselves to save money. We are getting there but this project turned into an overhaul of the main floor. We hope to be done by Christmas.





How can we Support You? How can we pray for you?
Please send us your prayer requests and we will be honored to bring your requests before the throne of Grace in your time of need!
Reply to this email and we will dedicate one day each week to your requests. Thank you for allowing us to share your story.

Please help us by praying that God will raise additional financial partners. If you are interested in investing with us, please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions. Our goal is to add 20 people at \$50 per month for the next 4 years. Donations address is

Mission To The World
P.O. box 2589
Suwanee, GA 30024
Account #12140

[This is your opportunity to make an eternal investment!](#)

BIRTHDAYS for NOVEMBER



Kayleigh Clark 8th Fran Bagby 25th

Harrison Horn 11th Winston Horn 28th

Vielsa Harding 13th

Aaron Smith 15th

Kathy VanderKooy 21st



Dates to Remember for November

November 1 Ladies Circle at 9:30am in the Church Parlor

November 5 Men's Breakfast at 8:00am in the Fellowship Hall

November 9 Women's Leadership Meeting at 5:30pm in the library

November 13 Communion at the morning service

November 13 Operation Christmas Child box due at the church

November 20 Thanksgiving luncheon after the worship service. The meat, dressing, gravy and cranberry sauce provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

November 20 Communion at the evening service

November 23-25 Church office will be closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday

Sunday November 6th DAY LIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS. Move your clocks BACK an HOUR before you go to bed on Saturday night.