

A GAME OF CHESS

For Thanksgiving weekend a man visited an old friend and discovered his friend in the midst of a game of chess with his dog. The man watched in silence as the two moved chess pieces back and forth, then burst out, "That's the most incredible dog I ever saw in my life!"

"Oh, he isn't so smart," was the quick response from the dog's owner, "I've beaten him three games out of four."



MUD PIES

A man pleaded with the psychiatrist, "You've got to help me. It's my son!"

"What seems to be the problem," the psychiatrist asked him.

"He's always eating mud pies. I get up in the morning and there he is in the backyard eating mud pies. I come home at lunch and he is eating mud pies. I come home at dinner and there he is in the backyard eating mud pies." The psychiatrist tried to assure the man, "Give the kid a chance. It's all part of growing up. It'll pass."

"Well," replied the man, "I don't like and neither does his wife!"

THE CITY SLICKER

The man had taken to the back roads to enjoy the fall colours and stopped to talk with a farmer standing in his field. "That's a good looking bunch of cows, you've got," the city slicker said.

The farmer corrected him, "Not bunch, herd".

The city slicker asked, "Heard what?"

The farmer explained, "herd of cows".

"Of course I've heard of cows," the city slicker was quick to respond.

The farmer again corrected him, "No! a cow **herd**."

Exasperated, the city slicker moaned, "Why should I care what a cow heard? I've no secrets from any cow."



Why did the church hire a turkey for the praise team?

He had the best drumsticks!



First Baptist Church Strathroy

Where Christ is cherished, family is loved and everyone is family!



GETTING CONNECTED

Publication of...

First Baptist Church Strathroy

Strathroy, Ontario N7G 1T5 519-245-0291 / 519-317-8659 (cell)

firstbaptistchurchstrathroy@gmail.com

www.FirstBaptistChurchStrathroy.ca, Edited by Pastor Dave Adams

October 2025



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Looking to God

Thanksgiving is more than a day in October
A day to have off, to eat, watch football and slumber.

For while we still offer the traditional prayer
We pray not from the heart but of habit, yet unaware

As our forefathers thanked God just for being alive,

For the strength that He gave them to endure and survive.

We tend to forget all that we have been blessed to receive

And fail to give thanks as we're called to simply believe

That He gave us His Son – Jesus is His name –

And it was for us – our salvation – for which He came.

So, this year, we'll bring our praise to the God who shows us the way

To purposeful living each and every day.

~ author unknown



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Sundays, 11 a.m. Services

20 Centre Street W., Strathroy, Ontario

Thot: "Thanksgiving will draw our hearts out to God and keep us engaged with Him; it will take our attention from ourselves and give the Spirit room in our hearts." ~ Andrew Murray

HAIR CUT

Danny was home for Thanksgiving and decided to ask his father, a preacher, if he could get a car for Christmas.

"Okay," said his father, "If you get your 'C' level grades up to 'A's and 'B's, study your Bible, and get your hair cut, I'll consider it."

A month later, his father called him, "I'm really impressed by your commitment to your studies. Your grades are excellent and your Bible studies encouraging, but you haven't cut your hair yet."

Danny was never lost for an answer: "Look dad. In the Bible I've noticed that Moses, John the Baptist, Samson and even Jesus had long hair."

"Yes. I'm aware of that," replied his father "but did you also notice they walked wherever they went?"



Something to Think About...

"...those who gave thanks stood in the house of God...and they offered great sacrifices that day and rejoiced with great joy; the women and children also rejoiced" (Nehemiah 12:40; 43).

A quick look around your community will show you people are inundated with stress and worries in their daily lives. Amazingly, the psychologists would agree with scripture that gratitude is good medicine. Being thankful is good for your brain, body, health, and improves the relationships with everyone around you. That's why I think Thanksgiving is a wonderful time to gather with loved ones and reflect on God's blessings.

Sadly, rather than embracing moments of reflection, quietly enjoying each other's company, and demonstrating our heart-felt thankfulness, we let our schedules overflow, sprint from one task to the next, and busily navigate the torrential waters of consumerism, social media, deadline and world-affairs. Little wonder our lives feel like everything's upside-down, burdened by anxiety and stress.

As God's people, the Church, we've a responsibility to lead by example; to stand and proclaim our thankfulness for all the world to see. As we bear witness of our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, committed to Christ, and relying on the Holy Spirit, it's much more than an expression of gratitude, or even a spiritual discipline, though both are important, but a vital component of our worship, prayer and daily living.

We're told that gratitude "is the quality of being thankful; the readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness". That's a reflection of a believer's relationship with the living God. It's what was shown in response to the finished work of the Jerusalem walls in the days of Nehemiah as the people gathered to give praise, offer sacrifices and express great joy.

For the people of Israel who had diligently worked on rebuilding the walls, and alertly watched for the enemy, ready to defend their city, dedicated to



the LORD, it was time for the next step – to demonstrate their gratitude to God and give Him thanks for all that He had provided. Therefore *"they offered great sacrifices that day and rejoiced with great joy"*. They kept their eyes on the source of their blessings rather than claiming 'territorial rights' to their accomplishments. Oh, that we too might always rejoice in the Lord. Again, in the New Testament, we find further admonitions to give thanks to God. Thanksgiving is to always be a central part of our daily lives. Some of the most notable verses on giving thanks are the following:

- *"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you"* (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, NKJV).
- *"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God"* (Philippians 4:6, NKJV).
- *"Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men"* (1 Timothy 2:1, NKJV).

Still not convinced? Maybe if you realized that the Lord has *"fearfully and wonderfully designed you"* (Psalm 139:14); how God creates each of us with incredible care with an intricate design. What an awesome work of art you are! All creation should do no less than give thanks and appreciate what the Lord has done. Let me ask you some other questions. How often do you feel gratitude in your daily life? How does it make you feel? Why don't we do it more often? Or all the time? The reason why we don't feel grateful as much as we should lies in where we focus. That frailty of our gratitude stems from our lack of thankfulness for life itself given through God's own Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who through His death on the cross freed you from judgment for sin. That gives you the right to have fellowship with God – forever! What a gift!

When you focus on how those in your life let you down, disappoint you and fail to live up to your expectations – an impossible task by the way – you are not showing gratitude and will be frustrated and sorrowful. However, an excellent remedy is found at Philippians 4:8 which encourages us to think on "whatever is true, honourable, just, pure, lovely, commendable; to look for excellence, worthiness or things with value for praise" – that we're

to think about those things, to make them our focus by which we choose to live our lives, lifting our thanks to God and then showing gratitude to others. And that will lead to grateful hearts and a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mark Your Calendar!

October 5th – Communion Sunday

October 12th – Thanksgiving Sunday

Thankful as The Church of Believers

Wednesdays 1:30 p.m.

Weekly Prayer (FBCS Prayer Room)

Message Series

Baptist Distinctives

Foundations of our Faith

Each Sunday 11 a.m.

