



Date 11/22/2020

*Happy Thanksgiving!*  
**When Life Tanks...We Give Thanks!**  
**2 Corinthians 1:8-11**

**Scripture Reading**

**2 Corinthians 1:8-11**

(8) We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about the hardships we suffered in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life. (9) Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might *not rely on ourselves*, but on God who raises the dead. (10) *He has delivered us* from such a deadly peril, and *he will deliver us*. On him we have *set our hope* that he will *continue to deliver us*, (11) as you **help us by your prayers**. Then many will **give thanks** for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the **prayers of many**.

**The Pilgrims**

**Psalm 103 – 1-4**

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!  
Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, (the benefits of the one...)  
who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,  
who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy.*

**The More Life Tanks, the More Our Thanks!**

**Thanksgiving Through the Centuries:**

1621 – **Pilgrims** First Thanksgiving Feast.

1789 – **George Washington** proclaimed Thanksgiving a holiday.

1863 – **Abraham Lincoln** - the last Thursday of November.

1941 – **Franklin D. Roosevelt** – law making Thanksgiving a national holiday.

**Favorite Songs:** Praise You in the Storm (Casting Crowns, Blessings (Laura Story), Thanks to God! (Storm & Hultman), We Gather Together ([Adrianus Valerius](#))

*Happy Thanksgiving!*

## **When Life Tanks...We Give Thanks!**

**2 Corinthians 1:8-11**

### **Opening**

#### ***Happy Thanksgiving!***

Thanksgiving is coming up. It's a time for ... shopping (black Friday), a time for family, time for eating. Signal the holiday season.

But because of COVID...

Social interaction tanked. Economy tanked, Businesses tanked, movies and sports tanked, Church attendance tanked, school attendance tanked. Mental Health tanked. (besides TP and facemask producers)

But we are a people who give thanks. Not because of circumstances, but because the Lord Jesus overcomes the world. Thanksgiving is a great time to remind ourselves that we will have trouble in this world, but ...

#### **When Life Tanks, We Give Thanks!**

(Pray)

## Scripture Reading

### 2 Corinthians 1:8-11

(8) We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about the hardships we suffered in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life. (9) Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might *not rely on ourselves*, but on God who raises the dead. (10) *He has delivered us* from such a deadly peril, and *he will deliver us*. On him we have *set our hope* that he will *continue to deliver us*, (11) as you **help us by your prayers**. Then many will **give thanks** for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the **prayers of many**.

### Exegesis:

#### Context

- Riot in Ephesus (Acts 19).
- Demetrius made silver idols of the goddess Artemis, \$ for craftsmen. Didn't like the message of Christ. Stirred up a riot.
- Paul and his companions were in great danger!
- God's deliverance through the danger prompted tremendous thanksgiving

How did Paul describe their despair? - FAR Beyond their endurance.

How response did life tanking for them produce? – Faith

What was the result in others? - Thanksgiving!

**When Life Tanks, We Give Thanks...**

### **Pilgrims' Example**

Pilgrims were very strong followers of Christ. Therefore ...

Their attitude was, **When Life Tanks, We Give Thanks** (not in those words!)

- *death from disease.*
- lost 50% of their entire group.

By human measures, their expedition looked a failure.

It ain't worth it. Just give up.

That wasn't their attitude -

They stayed in America, persevered, developed good relationships with native Americans, planted, harvested, gave thanks in the Fall.

I believe that the great losses made the Thanks that much greater.

Like the principle Jesus gave regarding forgiveness...

He who is forgiven much, loves much.

The one forgiven much has a perspective of what it's like at the bottom.

### **Psalm 103 – 1-4**

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!*

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, (the benefits of the one...)*

*who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,*

*who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy.*

Why was Paul so grateful for God's deliverance? Because of the danger!

**The More Life Tanks, the More Our Thanks!**

*The greater the deliverance, the greater the Thanksgiving.*

## **Enduring Spirit of Thanksgiving**

**Tom Begley** (recorded the events of the 1<sup>st</sup> Thanksgiving)

Venison (deer) and shellfish ... Possibly wild turkey

“Cabbage, carrot, cucumbers, leeks, lettuce, parsnips, pumpkins,”

“There were also a lot of **native** wild plants

Jerusalem artichokes, garlic, cranberries, Concord grapes, walnuts and chestnuts.”

I know your mouth is just watering now!

**NO** potatoes, sweet cranberry sauce, Pumpkin pie would have been impossible, as the colony didn't have butter, wheat flour or an oven.

Thanksgiving celebration brought lots of new foods.

### **Through the Centuries:**

1621 – **Pilgrims** Thanksgiving Feast.

1789 – **George Washington** proclaimed Thanksgiving a holiday.

1863 – **Abraham Lincoln** designated the last Thursday of November Thanksgiving.

1941 – **Franklin D. Roosevelt** – law making Thanksgiving a national holiday.

### **Today's Peril**

Due to Covid risks – thanksgiving gatherings will be different

The Form of Thanksgiving may change, but the Substance does not.

The substance is...

**When Life Tanks, We Give Thanks!**

The substance of thanksgiving, Spirit of Thanksgiving is alive and well among God's People.

Songs communicate this spiritual truth

**Casting Crowns - Praise You in the Storm**

And I'll praise you in this storm And I will lift my hands

That You are who You are No matter where I am

And every tear I've cried You hold in your hand

You never left my side, And though my heart is torn, I will praise you in this storm

**Laura Story – Blessings**

What if your blessings come through raindrops?

What if your healing comes through tears?

What if a thousand sleepless nights is what it takes to know You're near?

Music artists communicate what it means – **When Life Tanks, We Give Thanks.**

Can you Praise Him in the Storm? Can you see God's mercies in disguise?

**Ways I became better** - out of undesirable CoV.

When life gives you lemons, Make Lemonade! Over a Dozen

(Sound Effects)

Learned about virus transmission, immune system overreaction – Yay!

Time with Chey.

Go back to Jesus, basics.

Online church, zoom. (What's zoom?), speaking to online.

Elders Meetings, Members Meetings...

New avenues of reaching the disconnected (indirect evangelism)

Changed my preaching

Preach Looking at a camera in empty room.

Use **sound effects** while preaching.

Online giving – westoahuchristian.org

Online funeral

Facility became an important link in meeting community needs.

Traffic (blessing)

Lines at restaurants (line at Costco & hoarding TP, not so much)

**Thanksgivings Sharing**

(Read in service.)

**MIM Dance**

**Communion**

**Closing Song**