

Thanks Be to God

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In Canada we celebrate Thanksgiving Day each year on the second Monday of October. Often, we celebrate this day by eating turkey meals with loved ones. While around the table, we encourage each other to share things we are thankful for, like family, friends, food and home. This tradition of listing helps us recognize the earthly blessings God provides but is there more???

In God's Word the apostle Paul writes to the early Christian church in Corinth:

“But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 15:57).

It is easy to be thankful when life is going well, gathered around a table together eating good food, but we live in a sinful world with all its struggles and trials. We experience many forms of “hard times” in our lives. Paul’s words encourage us to acknowledge that there is a foundation on which we can stand, beyond the things we require to sustain our human life. In this passage, we are reminded that

although we are sinful people in a fallen world our thanksgiving is complete when we see our earthly life through the victory won for us through Christ’s death and resurrection.

This thanksgiving came before we were born, before any of our joys and sorrows even began to unfold:

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16).

We did not and we cannot earn our salvation; God sent His Son to save us because He first loved us. In response, we can recite our full thanksgiving in faith every day of the year: *“But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

May the message from Paul become a new song in our hearts as we live as children of God, day by day. May we look for the times when we can say “thanks be to God!” all year round. Amen.



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