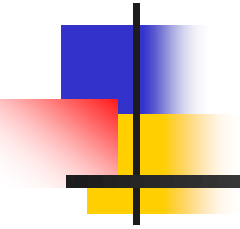


Thanksgiving Traditions







This Tell Me About This Picture

- By Norman Rockwell
- Titled "Freedom From Want"
- Painted in March 1943
- Rest of the story – painted as part of series of 4, based on FDR's State of the Union Address January 6, 1941, in which he enumerated 4 American freedoms he intended to protect: Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Worship, Freedom from Want, and Freedom from Fear
- Set in stone forever the image of a traditional American Thanksgiving



It's Not Thanksgiving Without

- Your favorite tradition
- Your fondest memories
- Any crazy stories?
- Here's one I saw in the paper yesterday
- America has had Thanksgiving since the Pilgrims, declared a holiday in 1863
- But before it was a holiday, it was a way of life
- Saw it in the Psalms we read this morning



Focus of Early Church Life

Colossians 3:12 So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and [k]patience; **13** bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. **14** Beyond all these things *put on* love, which is [l]the perfect bond of unity. **15** Let the peace of Christ [m]rule in your hearts, to which [n]indeed you were called in one body; **and [o]be thankful.**



But Wait, There's MORE

- ¹⁶ Let the word of [p]Christ richly dwell within you, [q]with all wisdom teaching and admonishing [r]one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing [s]with **thankfulness in your hearts to God.** ¹⁷ Whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, **giving thanks through Him to God the Father.**
- THREE times in a short teaching on church life, the emphasis is on **being Thankful**



Then vs Now

- What is the difference between then and now?
- They were living life every day, experiencing life every day through a perspective of absolute dependence on the presence, power, mercy, grace and faithfulness of God.
- Really, it should be EXACTLY THE SAME WITH US TODAY.
- The simplest and clearest step of faith we can take today is to be thankful at all times in all things, because God is always faithful.



The Eucharist – The Giving of Thanks



Jesus + Nothing = EVERYTHING

- deeply loved by God,
- fully accepted by God,
- completely and permanently forgiven by God,
- lavishly blessed by God,
- and eternally, perfectly embraced by God as his child; a child who brings Him unspeakable JOY