

## † Gift and Giver †

Ham or turkey . . . or both? Mashed potatoes or candied yams . . . or both?  
Green bean casserole or . . . and . . . ?? Grandma's house or yours or the kids?  
And how about cranberry sauce? Is it hauled out for this meal only or year around?

I'm talking about that awesome Thanksgiving dinner, of course! I can already taste the amazing meal – with or without the cranberry sauce!

*“The eyes of all look to You,  
and You give them their food in due season.  
You open your hand; You satisfy the desire of every living thing.”* (Ps. 145:15-16)

What do your eyes 'look to'? What is the “desire” of your heart, your mind, your family? Is thanksgiving a holiday, a simple event or an irreplaceable part of your every moment, your life?

God doesn't celebrate Thanksgiving. He has no one to thank! The earth is the Lord's and all it contains. He receives nothing as gift. Rather, He is gift. He is Giver. God gives, we receive, and that is the totality of all reality!

Without being asked, He floods you with gifts beyond telling. *“Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name,”* for all that is within you is a gift. Bodies and souls, eyes, ears, and all your members, your reason and all your senses. Food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, family. On and on it goes, every second a million gifts received!

He who has given you His Son will not withhold anything you need!

He who found you when you did not seek Him; saved you when you did not want Him; gave up His Son for you when you did not believe in Him -- rejoices over you as a groom over his bride -- loves you as a father loves his child -- tenderly cares for you as a mother does her nursing infant!

Even better, He who clothes the grass and dresses the lilies of the field -- clothes you with the garments of salvation! He has wrapped around your body and soul the coat of his Son. The robe of His faithful life and bloody death has been made your own.

Like Joseph wore his coat of many colors, you wear the coat of only two colors: *white* for the purity of Jesus and *red* for his blood. No jealous brothers will steal it from you. He who hung naked on the cross for you will let no one, no devil or false prophet, no temptation or trial, not even death with all its fury – remove from you the red and white coat of Jesus' blood and righteousness.

You are blessed -- at all times and in all places – to give thanks to the Father. On Thanksgiving you do so intentionally and nationally. How about every day?!!

Give thanks to the one true God that He says to you:

*“Lo, I am with you always.  
I love you always!*

*And always and forever you are My own --Mine, all Mine in Jesus Christ!”*

The peace of the Lord be with you!

*Pastor Bert*