

THANKSGIVING 2025!

Dear Friend,

Thanksgiving arrives one week from [today](#).

On the one hand, [Thanksgiving](#) is all about family and tradition. [Thanksgiving](#) is the one day when we remember old recipes, when we literally and intentionally "taste" our past and let the food tell the story of the Pilgrims and the Native Americans.

[Thanksgiving](#) is also a time when we take a deep breath of the past so we can plunge into the future.

What are you really thankful for this [Thanksgiving](#)? It is a time to give thanks, but WHAT we give thanks for is left up to us.

In our maturing Christians walk, we're discovering Thanksgiving is not just about where we are, what we are eating, or what our shopping strategy is for [Friday](#). [Thanksgiving](#) must be rooted in a thankfulness for the greatest relationship we have been given--a relationship with the risen, regnant and returning Christ who calls the faithful to a "glorious hope" and an illustrious "inheritance."

So this is a time for the faithful to look backward and forward while we are looking inward and upward!

"And I heard a voice from heaven saying, 'Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yes, says the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors: and their works do follow them'" (Revelation 14:13).

What "works" follow us into eternity? Not the works of our hands, as in our houses or the portfolio we have built, or our car(s), or various accomplishments of which we are deservedly proud. Not the works of our hands, but *the works of our hearts*, our deeds of love, beauty truth and goodness. This is that for which we give thanks to God this [Thanksgiving](#).

In Ephesians 1 Paul gives thanks not simply about what has occurred--the death and resurrection of Christ--but also for what is occurring and what is coming to a "family of faith" that gathers together and "works" together and faithfully keeps that "working relationship" alive year after year.

Happy [Thanksgiving](#), church.

Pastor Duff