



# FIRST THINGS FIRST



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## Parson to Person

Christmas music gently flows from my iPad speakers as I sit in a pool of sweat from a recent errand run. Aw, I can hear you now. "Christmas! We haven't even gotten through Halloween yet! That's just like you people of greed. We have to be thankful first!"

I've heard it all before. I must say that a love for Christmas doesn't mean I am not thankful. In my limited experience on this planet, thankfulness is never supposed to be a day, or a holiday. Thankfulness is to be a lifestyle.

Way before President George Washington issued a declaration for a day of Thanksgiving in 1789, the Psalmist instructed us to "Enter His gates with Thanksgiving" (Psalm 100:4). Hopefully, we don't wait for Thanksgiving to be thankful. I imagine that many of us begin our prayers with an expression of thanks.

This past Sunday, I really listened to the public prayers. One thing I heard over and over is, "Lord, I thank you for this day." Now, that phrase may be a cliché to get out of the way before the real praying starts, but I find it totally appropriate.

First of all, only the Lord can create a day. No one in the government can. Scientists can't create a day. I cannot create a day. You cannot create a day. Only the Lord can create a day. And He decided to create a day. As a matter of fact, Psalm 118:24 says, "This is the day the LORD has made." And then it continues to say, "let us rejoice and be glad in it." So, it seems that we are to be grateful/thankful/glad in the day He has made.

Truthfully, it can be hard to be thankful on some days. Some days, some memorable days, are not thankful days. Some of our days are days to tragedy, heartache, grief, loneliness, hurt and rage. There are some days that have created scars and left us with a load of baggage. There are some days we'd rather forget.

And that was that day. But today is this day. And if God has given us another day, then that means that He didn't give up on us on that very bad day. Whether we believe it or not, or want it or not, God believes in you enough to give you another day.

You get another day. You get another try. You get another morning of new mercies (Lamentations 3:22-23). Yes, this day has many challenges. But it is another God ordained day. And God wants you to know Him on this day with everything you have going on in it.

I'm going to continue to try to embrace thankfulness all through the year, on every day, even the tough ones. So, to modify a Ben Rector song:

So, fill your plate and drink your tea  
And fill your house with family  
The kind of love a thousand miles can't wash away  
And thank God for this Thanksgiving Day

Grateful,  
Ken

P.S. When can we start playing Christmas music?



# November 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Spaghetti, Green Beans, Corn, Rolls, Salad Bar	2	3 NATIONAL SANDWICH DAY	4
5 3:30pm Deacons Meeting	6 NATIONAL NACHOS DAY	7 5:00-7:00pm Youth Fundraiser at Seafood Junction	8 Ham/Turkey, Dressing, Yams, Green Bean Casserole, Salad Bar	9	10 NATIONAL VANILLA CUP CAKE DAY	11
12 Operation Christmas Child	13 NATIONAL HUG A MUSICIAN DAY	14	15 NO Family Night Meal	16 Feeding of the 5,000	17	18
19	20 12:00pm Senior Adult Luncheon	21	22 NO Family Night Meal	23 HAPPY  THANKSGIVING	24 OFFICE CLOSED	25
26 NATIONAL CAKE DAY	27	28 NATIONAL FRENCH TOAST DAY	29 Chkn Strips, Fries, Chips & Rotel Salad Bar	30 NATIONAL PERSONAL SPACE DAY		