

# THANKSGIVING

THE TRUE STORY.

Come Thanksgiving Day each year, many of us give the nod to Pilgrims and Indians and talk of making ready for a harsh first winter in the New World.

But for the Christian, the deepest roots of our thanksgiving go back to the Old World, way back before the Pilgrims, to a story as old as creation, with a two-millennia-old climax. It's a story that keeps going right on into the present and gives meaning to our little lives, even when we're a half a globe removed from history's ground zero at a place called Golgotha.

You could call it the true story of thanksgiving — or you could call it the Christian gospel viewed through the lens of that often undervalued virtue known as “gratitude.”

## Created for Thanksgiving

First, God created humanity for gratitude. You exist to appreciate God. Appreciating both who God is and his actions for us — in creating us and sustaining our lives — is fundamental to proper human life in God's created world.

As he describes in Romans 1, the apostle Paul gives us this glimpse of the place of appreciation in the created order:

*Although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. (Romans 1:21)*

## Fallen from Thanksgiving

Second, we all have failed miserably in appreciating God as we should. From all of our beginnings, we keep reliving the Garden story. Satan, he wanted more. More power, more glory. Ultimately, in his essence, Satan is an ingrate and he sinks his venom into the heart of Eden. Satan's sin becomes the first sin of all humanity: the sin of ingratitude. Adam and Eve are, simply, painfully ungrateful for what God gave.

## Redeemed by Thanksgiving

Third, God himself, in the person of his Son, Jesus, entered into our thankless world, lived in flawless appreciation of his Father, and died on our behalf for our chronic ingratitude. It is Jesus, the God-man, who has manifested the perfect life of thankfulness. Jesus is not only God himself but also the quintessentially thankful human. The God-man not only died to forgive our failures in giving God the thanks he's due, but also lived the perfect life of appreciation on our behalf toward his Father.

## Freed for Thanksgiving

Finally, by faith in Jesus, we are redeemed from ingratitude and its just eternal penalty in hell, and freed to enjoy the pleasure of being doubly thankful for God's favor toward us — not only as his creatures, but also as his redeemed.

And so the apostle Paul encourages Christians to have lives characterized by thanksgiving.

*May you be “strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.” (Colossians 1:11–12)*

by David Mathis, 11/22/12. [www.desiringgod.org](http://www.desiringgod.org)

# DON'T WAIT. DONATE.



Community Services is collecting new/gently used coats, gloves, scarves, hats and new socks.

5209 NE 22nd Ave., Portland OR 97211

## URGENT PRAYER

- Zelma Johnson, health Providence hospital
- Lola Matthews, health Providence hospital
- Violet Larry, health
- Sandra & Coisha Graham, death of loved one
- Cindy Cobbs, health
- Calle Stowe, health and recovery
- Johnny Williams, heart attack recovery
- Theresa Holcey/family, death of friend
- Edward Marko, (Sarah Marko's father) in hospital
- Sophia Schafer (Loiseau/Foxworth 12-yr old friend), Wilms cancer

# HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Sharon Church  
Office Closed

November  
20 thru 27, 2018



CONTACT THE SHARON COMMUNICATION TEAM at [office@sharonchurch.comcastbiz.net](mailto:office@sharonchurch.comcastbiz.net) or 503.287.7649

## LET'S CHAT!

with Pastor D

We continue this week by sharing the last point on the list of how to know when its time to get involved in a church.



### MONEY USE

Money is a sensitive or taboo area for many church's. Some argue that money should not be on a list of factors to determine involvement in church. After all, we give faithfully because of our dedication to God.

However, if we are honest, the proper use of donated money to church is important. Whenever I give or invest in an organization, I like to know that the funds are being utilized correctly. It gives me peace of mind that I am not simply filling the pockets of an individual, who is taking advantage of my generosity.

On that premise, I believe church finances should have safeguards instituted to offer transparency, and security of the funds. If those areas are present, then you should consider being involved.

### NON-MONEY SHAKER

Another area to be cautious about is a church that is hungry for money. I remember attending a church that collected offering four times during one service. Needless to say I had given everything after the second collection and wanted to leave.

It's great when you can support a ministry. However, use wise judgement and ensure it's not all about money. If the church won't shake you for money at every event consider being involved.

in the  
loop

SHARON SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

November 3, 2018

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### NOVEMBER

- 4 Pacific Daylight Time Ends (turn clock back 1 hour) 2am
- 4 Elder's Meeting 10:30am
- 4 Annual Young People Pasco WA Trip
- 5 Bible Study 12pm
- 7 Mid-week Study 7pm
- 8 **PAES No School, Parent/Teacher Conference**
- 10 Sabbath School/Divine Worship 9:45am
- 10 Sabbath Bible Study 1:30pm
- 11 Church Board Meeting 10:30am
- 14 Mid-week Study 7pm
- 16 **NAAALEF at NPUC Office, Ridgefield WA**
- 17 Sabbath School/Divine Worship 9:45am
- 17 Community Svc Food Pantry 2pm
- 17 **NAAALEF at NPUC Office, Ridgefield WA**
- 18 **NAAALEF at NPUC Office, Ridgefield WA**
- 19 Bible Study 12pm
- 19 **PAA begin Thanksgiving Break**
- 20 **PAES begin Thanksgiving Break**
- 20 **Thanksgiving Holiday—Church Office Closed 11/20-27**
- 22 **THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY**
- 24 Sabbath School/Divine Worship 9:45am
- 24 Community Svc Food Pantry 2pm
- 26 Bible Study 12pm
- 27 **PAA Constituency (all members invited) 7:30pm**

\* These are holiday or partner activities held at other locations, see Sharon bulletin board for details.

**PAS** Fall Festival

**November 3, 6:30-8:30pm**  
**3990 NW 1st St., Gresham OR**  
Bring one can of food for PACS  
Tickets for food and games on sale at the door