

E-Devotion for Nov 25:

Today is the day before Thanksgiving. Not sure if the term “Thanksgiving Eve” is popular or even used at all. In fact, I’m not sure exactly why it just popped into my head. In a more normal year or at least more like the previous two, today, Thanksgiving Eve, I’d be putting the final touches on the message I would share at our Thanksgiving service. Since our service tomorrow has been cancelled, I recorded my message yesterday and it will be online in the morning (OK, I admit, that was a shameless plug for you to watch it!). That means, at least for me, I have a less stressful Thanksgiving Eve.

This prompted me to think about other “Eves,” in particular, Christmas Eve when we prepare for the coming of the Messiah. In the church, Christmas Eve is a very big deal. It is all about worshipping together in anticipation of Christmas Day and celebrating Christ’s birth. We don’t do that on the day before Thanksgiving. Instead, we might do last minute shopping trying to find that last can of cranberries on store shelves. Or we might even get a bit stressed, wondering if the turkey we bought is big enough to feed all who will dine with us. Probably not this year.

So, this year. I propose we use Thanksgiving Eve as a day of preparation for giving thanks. Today, I am going to focus on **I Thessalonians** where Paul instructs us to “*Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*” I am going to think about each and every blessing the Lord has given me. I’m going to replace this year’s thoughts of worry and anxiety with thoughts of praise and joy. Please join me in this today.

I close with this from Pastor Ken; “It may be a time for soul searching to discover what it is we are thankful for... and continue to wear a mask, wash your hands, fold them, bow your head and dig up a prayer of thanksgiving.” Let us pray: Lord, help us on this

Thanksgiving Eve to look to you and thank you and praise you for each and every blessing you have provided. We especially pray for those family and friends we are with in mind and spirit but unable to be with in person. Keep us all safe, healthy, and full of an attitude of gratitude. Amen.

John Martin