

Thanksgiving...Again!

-Jim Huest-

Here we are again...Thanksgiving! And a wonderful time it is. It also seems quite appropriate that Ryan has been preaching about hope with Jamie following on his heels with thanksgiving. Hope is the foundation of much of our thankful attitude. And we of all people should be the most thankful. Not only do we have the promise of life eternal in our grasp, but as the history of mankind and circumstances of millions and millions around the world today attest, our temporal circumstances are by far the best known to mankind. Unfortunately, we can still feel sorry for ourselves in the midst of great physical comforts, opportunities, and eternal hope. It's not that wealth, abundance of food, forced air heat, summer air-conditioning, and mind-boggling amounts of distracting entertainment do not come with challenges, stress, sickness, pain, and death. Generally we can say that modern life comes with the requisite amount of death to qualify for life. But, this Thanksgiving and every day we should remember there is great suffering in the world that is far beyond our own. War in Ukraine where besides the ravages of war is coming a winter with inadequate power to keep warm; China in its insatiable desire for power pursues it with slave labor and an iron-fisted control over its people; the Tigrayans in Ethiopia, a people we probably have never heard of, is threatened with genocide; tragedy on our open southern border continues unabated for two years and our government turns a blind eye to human trafficking, child abuse, rape, terrorist infiltration, and massive drug influx that kills over one hundred thousand of our citizens each year. You can make up your own list ten times as long and not touch on any that I have listed herein. Yet, for today, we are well except for the natural frailties of life that cannot be escaped. Through it all we must remember, "God is faithful, who will not allow [us] to be tempted beyond what [we] are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that [we] may be able to bear it (1Cor. 10:13)." Yes, Thanksgiving again.