

May God Be Thanked

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” (1 Pet. 1:3).

I had heard the words used by unbelievers in the past few years. But this year, a few days before Thanksgiving Day, I heard two Christians refer to our national holiday as “Turkey Day.” While we all enjoy the great foods of the season, it does seem that Thanksgiving has become more of a day of fun, football, and food than a day of thanks. This little poem unfortunately reveals what is on most minds.

May your stuffing be tasty - May your turkey be plump,
 May your potatoes and gravy - Have nary a lump.
 May your yams be delicious - And your pies take the prize,
 And may your Thanksgiving dinner - Stay off your thighs!
 - Author Unknown

Although Simon Peter wrote his first epistle to encourage the scattered, suffering saints, he began the letter by giving thanks to God. Indicating to give thanks or praise, the word “blessed” and its association with “the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ” reminds us that all our praise is to be directed to Him. So in this thanksgiving season, using Simon Peter’s words as our guide, may we look away from our circumstances and may God be thanked!

May God be thanked for His abiding majesty! He is the God of eternity; the God of creation; the God of covenants; the God of His people. But above that, He is “the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.” It has been well said, “God is the God of Christ, as Christ is man; and he is the Father of Christ, as Christ is God” (John Gill). As it is Christ’s nature to be His Son, so it is the Father’s nature to be His Father. What a glorious, majestic God!

May God be thanked for His abundant mercy! His covenant dealings with the Lord Jesus are according to His Godhood and His Fatherhood. His covenant dealings with us, however, are “according to His abundant mercy.” In the final analysis, every believer must cling to His mercy. And it is not a deficient supply. This is not a reference to the limited mercy of men; the writer is speaking of the abundant, overflowing mercy of God.

May God be thanked for His authoritative might! Along with God’s plentiful mercy comes His power to quicken and regenerate. By this sovereign authority we have been “begotten . . . again unto a lively hope.” The same power demonstrated in “the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” has made us alive in the risen Lord. And now, possessing a living hope, we anticipate our own resurrection in the future and an eternal inheritance.