

Theological Musings from Dave's Laptop

November 24, 2020

Well, today is the antepenultimate day of Thanksgiving, 2020, and CHRISTmas eve is just a month from today. The temperature and the arc of the sun are just right for Thanksgiving . . . and we do give thanks!

At the same time, this is going to be a COVID Thanksgiving, followed by a COVID CHRISTmas, and it's not as easy to give thanks as it sometimes is. Pastor Andrew's message on Sunday was a powerfully inspired reminder of how we can find our "PE" to go with our "Holding On (HO)" so that we can be renewed in HOPE.



With Andrew's words ringing in my ears and heart, I offer to you words from an old friend in Louisville that seem to suit this season well. Marie Wessinger wrote these words on May 25, 1996.

~ ~ ~

Giving Thanks

Thanksgiving is the Seed of Hope. We are told to be "thankful in all things."

Whispered words of thanks from our lips to God starts the process of tilling the soil of our hardened hearts. We move a pebble and then another until we see there is rich soil in which to grow new Seeds of Hope.

We see new rays of sunshine, breaking through the clouds, rays that warm our hearts, rays that cause the Seeds of Hope to swell and swell and burst open to new growth.

But there are still days of wind and rain and hail that beat down the fragile sprouts of Hope. Sometimes despair and destruction are such that our crop of Hope is destroyed. Shock and pain move into the fields of our hearts again. We ask questions, "Why, O Lord, Why??"

But our hearts only bring echoes from their empty chambers. "Thankful in ALL Things?" What about these things that are heavy and burdensome, like stones in a New England field?

Then one day we see a small child playing, hear a bird chirping, feel the warmth of a friend's hug. We "see" these blessings and offer our grateful thanks. We feel a new warmth in our hearts. Yet it takes days and maybe years of hard work to carry and move these stones, to build a fence, a bridge, or a paved road. Only then can we be fully grateful for a cleared field of new soil for our Seeds of Hope.

We turn inward and become aware that there is a new seedbed of Hope. We nurture our new Hope by thinking of things that are "lovely and true and good."

CBF: transforming Oakland Mills into a community others wish to replicate.

Archived Laptops are available at http://www.dcstancil.com/daves_laptop

1 | Page

We may also be blessed with the insight and purpose of our hard work for ourselves or for someone else's good:

1. A fence to keep negative and destructive forces out of our Field of Hope;
2. A bridge to reach out to other travelers or pilgrims;
3. A road of compassion for others' struggles and pain.

From the fence, the bridge, the road, we gain a New Vision called "Thanks-Living."

ThanksLiving is the flowerbed that grows from Seeds of Thanks, blossoming into the bright colors of Hope.

~~~

*Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in everything;  
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).*

*Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable—if there is any moral excellence and if there is anything praiseworthy—dwell on these things (Philippians 4:8).*

