

I AM THANKFUL!

November 25, 2012

My favorite holiday, Thanksgiving, has come and gone and this one was just as wonderful as all the others. As a people, I think we are thankful for the blessing that we have received from God but perhaps we do not consider them as often as we should. During this time of year, the sentiment of thankfulness is in the forefront, so we are more apt to have a thankful mindset than at other times. In their Bible class, my girls have been taught to be thankful everyday for the things God has blessed them with, and for that I am thankful. Mr. Mike challenged them with the notion of, "What if you woke up in the morning with only the things you had thanked God for the night before?" He also said, "What if you were given only the meals that you had thanked God for yesterday?" I think it is very appropriate for our young people to be challenged in this way as they mature and grow into the Christians we want them to be. Of course, our brother Paul was the one that said, "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" (1 Thess. 5:18). As the minister here at Cordova, I want to make sure that I express my thankfulness.

I am thankful for the **Pastors** that lead this godly congregation. Faithful congregations are only as faithful as the elderships that guide them, and some are not very faithful. The duties of an elder are stressful, to say the least, and very time consuming. The Hebrews writer said, "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that *is* unprofitable for you" (Heb. 13:17). Cordova's elders are responsible for our very souls and are deserving of honor and respect as they watch over them. We must remember that elders, more often than not, must deal with situations when correction is necessary, which makes their jobs even more difficult. Paul gave Titus a list of duties that the eldership was to fulfill and none are easy (Titus 1:9-11). I am thankful, as I know you are, for our fine eldership.

I am thankful for the **People** that fill the pews each time we come together to worship and study from God's Word. We here at Cordova have been blessed with hard workers and loving members. I have yet to be told "no" when I have asked anyone for help in any area of the work in which we are involved. When the Lord said, "**Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen**" (Mt. 28:19-20), we have taken Him at His word. I have never been associated with a more evangelistic group of Christians in my life and it shows in our work! When I read Paul's words, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Cor. 15:58), I think of our church family!

I am thankful for our **Posterity**. Our young people are some of the best around, without a doubt. Each time I see our young people taking upon themselves greater duties, it makes me feel confident that the church will continue to be successful in our area. We are seeing a change in those that were once teenagers as they take upon themselves the duties of mature Christians. We are witnessing in real life the words of Peter, "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby" (1 Pet. 2:2). Let us all make sure we encourage those that are participating in works that are new to them and tell them how great they are doing!

I am thankful for our **Partners**. A faithful husband or wife will help in the successes of their spouse. This isn't to say that one cannot find great success without the marriage bond, but it has always been in God's design for one man and one woman to come together as husband and wife and share the greatest things of life together (Gen. 2:23-24). We should thank God daily for our faithful husbands and wives that are helping us gain our goal of heaven. We have a great group of young families and mature couples that have exemplified what it means to be faithful spouses!

The list can continue for the wonderful things I am thankful for here at Cordova. I am thankful for each of you that have made my work a labor of love and joy. I look forward to many more years together as partners in the Lord's army!