

# Real Thanksgiving

As we enjoy Thanksgiving 2016, let us not allow football games, travel and family get-togethers – as important as the latter surely are – to cloud the real reason that this national holiday was created.

That was to praise and honor an Almighty God for His providence in the affairs of our country and in the lives of individual Americans.

Nobody captures the essence of heartfelt worship and adoration of our Creator more profoundly than did the Psalmist David, a shepherd boy who became a king. Perhaps his most beautiful expression of thanksgiving to God is the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm, one of my favorite passages and probably yours, too.



I would urge that sometime during this holiday season, when the family is gathered around, that someone read this text aloud as a verbal expression of the gratitude of the hearts within the circle. Here it is (in the King James Version, for its familiarity and poetic style):

*The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.*

*He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters.*

*He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.*

*Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.*

*Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.*

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*

We can all relate to David's descriptions of how God has led us through the good times and the bad, and the joy that arises from his reflection upon the grace and mercy of the Lord.

Allow these words to linger in your mind and indwell your heart as you bow in spirit before Him, acknowledging with gratitude His great love and care for us.

That, then, is real Thanksgiving.

– Beecher Hunter