

Transforming Daily
“... *received with thanksgiving* ...”
1 Timothy 4:3

In the midst of Paul’s admonishments and prophesying, he tells Timothy that all food should be received with thanksgiving. This instruction seems to be out of place. On the other hand, what Paul is warning Timothy of has to do with the false teaching and acts of false teachers who will require one’s participation in, or abstinence from, something as proof of dedication and devotion to their god. One such restriction pertained to the eating of particular foods.

Who hasn’t seen a table spread with multiple types and kinds of foods on Thanksgiving Day? Even if you didn’t grow up that way, you had to have seen pictures of mouthwatering turkey, chicken, ham, corn, green beans, cornbread, olives, mashed potatoes, broccoli casserole, and the list goes on. No one has an excuse for not finding something they like or can eat from the table. As a matter of fact, most by the end of the meal might be guilty of gluttony. No one can wait to sit down and eat. Every time you pass the table you’re picking at it; with your mom or spouse smacking you every time you do. And of course, before everyone does eat, we must give thanks to God.

There is almost a sense of guilt or humiliation that the table is so full. In some cases, people would want one to see it that way and feel that way, but with the right attitude toward God, it is an act of worship and praise to Him for His bountiful blessing on one’s life. Keep in mind though, whether there is a table brimming with food or a single plate of peas, it’s representative of God’s bountiful blessing in one’s life. The food is temporary, here now and gone in fifteen minutes, but what it represents is eternal.

While humiliation is not the right emotion, humility is. While guilt is not the right emotion, gratefulness is. While gluttony is not the right practice, rejoicing is. No matter how much food or how little food, one always has all of God.

What does Thanksgiving Day mean to you? If you had bad experiences on Thanksgiving Day as a child, change them now as an adult. Are you rightly related to God through Jesus Christ? That is the greatest thing for which to be thankful. However, if you’re blessed in such a way as to have your tables brimming with food on Thanksgiving Day, before you eat it, make sure it is received with thanksgiving.