

From Thanksgiving to Christmas

And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. —Colossians 3:15

Thursday was a day for Thanksgiving, but by midnight many minds shifted gears to gathering material goods—enough to fill shopping carts to overflowing. I am not against shopping. I enjoy it very much, but I thought it was interesting how quickly the focus changed. Even to the extent that there were many instances of people stampeding for their desired acquisitions-- plowing over anyone who got in their way. It was reported that one woman used pepper spray to obtain her coveted X-Box.

Was this in celebration of Thanksgiving (*“And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of Thanksgiving, and declare His works with rejoicing.”—Psalm 107:22*) or in celebration of Christ’s birth (*“For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulders: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God , The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”—Isaiah 9:6*)?

As I thought of the day we set aside to give thanks, I thought how natural it is to move into the celebration of Christ’s birth. To offer thanksgiving, you have to be thanking someone. The Pilgrims were thankful to God and the intent of this holiday is to follow their example. We have much to thank God for, but the greatest of His gifts is God the Son, Jesus.

The other thought that led me to transition from Thanksgiving to Christmas was that peace is a result of thankfulness. As we are able to thank God for ALL that He has done, we gain a sense of peace in knowing He is in control. (*“In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”—I Thessalonians 5:18*). This peace that we experience at Thanksgiving is part of the peace that Christ gives. This is the peace that the world cannot know, but every Christian can look back to the Christ Child in the manger and thank Him for the peace that He brings through salvation.