

DIGGING DEEPER

While some of us may spend more time being thankful on this holiday than others, I feel that our society views this holiday as a largely secular feast that's just a stepping stone between Halloween and Christmas.

So, here's my proposal: *let's all make Thanksgiving more than just a Hallmark holiday this year.* We need to make it a time where we genuinely thank God for what He has done for us and to honor Him on that day.

Thanksgiving can be an interesting day for sure. In years where it's been a year of abundance, it can be a great time of celebration, though often hard to make yourself slow down.

In hard seasons and hard years, Thanksgiving can feel almost like an insult that you're supposed to give thanks. It can feel like a blatant reminder of what you have lost.

So, for us all, no matter what season you are in, I am going to issue all of us a TURKEY DAY CHALLENGE. This challenge is meant to help us not just gloss over Thanksgiving as another holiday or a stepping stone between now and Christmas, but rather to use it as a day to give honor and thanks to God.

THE CHALLENGE

The **first step** is to take time and reflect. Ask yourself questions like:

What has your year been like? Are you feeling close to God? Are you feeling far away? What has He taught you this year?

More specifically: take the first 10 minutes of your Thanksgiving Day to do this. I know to some of you that sounds absurd...but think about it. I know most of us can agree that the first thing we do when we wake up is reach over and grab our phones and check all of our notifications. That takes easily 10 minutes, if not longer, for some of us. So, when you first wake up on Thanksgiving, instead of reaching over and grabbing that phone, sit up in your bed or at your desk and take time to reflect.