

From the Pastor's Pen

The Puritans, better known as Pilgrims, left England and went to Holland, looking for a place where they could live for and worship God in the manner in which they thought best. But they faced opposition there also, so they set off for America, dreaming of a place that would afford a freedom to worship and live for God.

Their journey across the ocean produced many perils. Storms blew them off course and they suffered tremendous hardships after landing. The first winter was so harsh that only half of the Pilgrims lived through it. However, it was during that time that God rescued them by sending the Native Americans, dubbed "Indians" by Columbus, to help them.

You might be thinking to yourself, "How do you attribute that to God?" Well, remember that the place they landed was much further north than their original destination, and the date was much later in the year than what they had planned. They were totally unprepared for the climate of New England. They didn't even know how to feed themselves. They needed help. What would be the odds of an English-speaking Native American being where they landed? Staggering, and yet one of the Native Americans *could* speak English. Say what you may, but I still say the God who is our Creator knows how to take care of us! Only God puts the right people in the right places to rescue those who love Him.

It doesn't take much imagination to know what must have been on the Pilgrims' hearts as they sat down to celebrate with the Native Americans a feast from the first harvest season. I am certain that they were grateful beyond measure toward God, who had rescued them!

God is still in the rescuing business. I know the person I was prior to being rescued by Jesus; I was a selfish, self-absorbed individual. You wouldn't have liked me then, and to be honest I didn't always like myself. But then God sent people into my life who helped show me the way to Him.

This Thanksgiving I will sit down to a feast. Before I eat I will express my gratitude to God, who in His providential watch-care rescued me from certain doom.

Our Nation has set a holiday to commemorate that first feast. We call it Thanksgiving Day. When you sit down to celebrate, will you be grateful to God? What will be your reason for giving thanks?

...If you can't think of anything, perhaps it is fitting to remind you that God sent his Son to ransom us from our sins through the work of the cross. Now *that* is cause for Thanksgiving!

"...Jesus, who rescued us from certain doom."

(1 Thessalonians 1:10, The Message)

See you in Church!

Pastor Tenney