

Be a Grateful Gourmet

If you enjoy a scoop of vanilla ice cream on your Thanksgiving pie, you may not have realized what a gourmet you are. I read recently that vanilla is the second most expensive spice in the world (saffron is number one). So if someone uses the phrase “plain vanilla” for something boring or unoriginal, they may not know that vanilla is actually a delicacy.

Vanilla is the only edible fruit out of 35,000 species of orchids. It requires a tropical climate to grow, and each flower blooms for only one day. Vanilla beans are worth more than silver and, historically, only kings could afford to flavor their food with them. Yet, as we do with many of God’s provisions for us today, we take vanilla for granted.

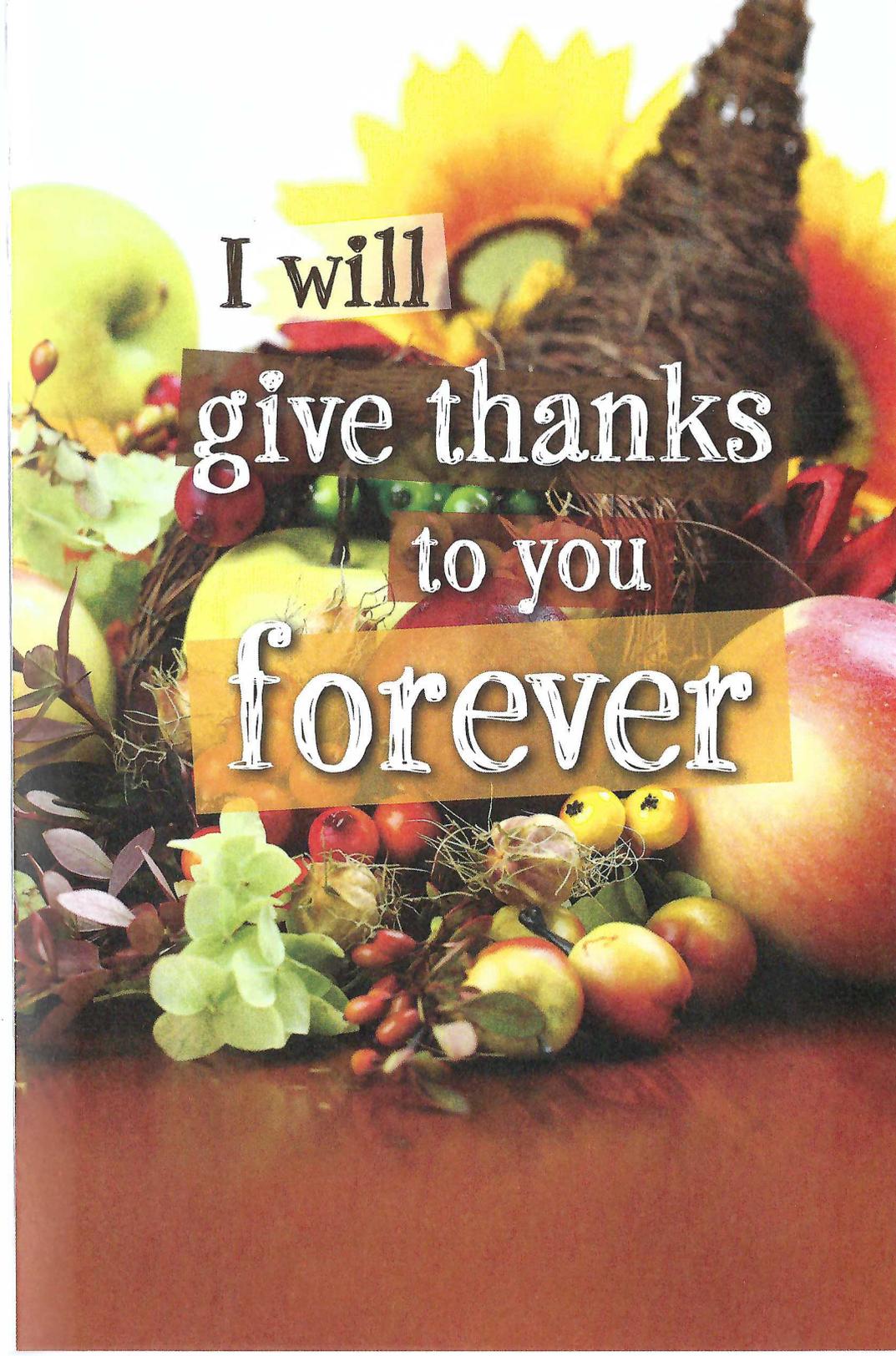
In his first letter to Timothy, the apostle Paul gives the young pastor all kinds of instructions for his personal walk with Jesus and his ministry to the church at Ephesus. Toward the end of the letter he wrote, “Godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content” (1 Timothy 6:6–8).

Contentment with God’s ordinary provision for our needs ought to cause us to be grateful, but later in the same chapter, Paul alludes to the fact that God sometimes provides above and beyond our needs when he refers to “the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy” (1 Timothy 6:17b).

When God provides vanilla ice cream for our Thanksgiving pie, root beer floats or peach cobbler, let’s remember to thank Him all year long for the ordinary as well as the extraordinary things He gives us richly to enjoy!

K.E. Horsley

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Covenant Church

3115 N.W. 16th Avenue Gainesville FL 32605

November 19, 2023

Call to Worship

Sounds of Hope

Invocation

Pastor Don Mauldin

Sing Unto the Lord

Hymn # 786 Count Your Blessings

Welcome and Announcements

Ron Marks

Recognition of Guests

Mission Moment

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Worship in Song

Hymn # 790 We Gather Together

Offertory Prayer

Craig Alexander

Offertory

Rose Morgan

Special Music

Sounds of Hope

Sermon: *Pastor Don Mauldin*

Scripture:

Benediction

Hymn #170 Give Thanks

Pastor Don Mauldin

352-262-5349

Happy Thanksgiving!

Covenant News

Our ministry for November is
Bread of the Mighty Food Bank.

Save the Dates

Thanksgiving Dinner November tonight at 5:00.

We provide the turkey and dressing,
you bring your favorite sides.

Holiday Social December 10th after church
“The Colors of Christmas” Musical December 17th

In Everything Give Thanks

For all that God in mercy sends, for health and
children, home and friends;
For comfort in the time of need, for every kindly word
and deed,
For happy talks and holy thoughts; For guidance in our
daily walk –

In everything give thanks!

For beauty in this world of ours, for verdant grass and
lovely flowers,
For song of birds, for buzz of bees, for the refreshing
summer breeze,
For hill and plain, for streams and trees, for deserts
and the rumbling seas.

In everything give thanks!