

WHILE YOU ARE ENJOYING YOUR THANKS-GIVING SEASON:

I'd like to ask you to consider a few questions.

Mr. Galloway BS, M.DIV. Just an OLD Sheepdog of our Good Shepherd – November 17, 2017

WHO are you going to GIVE thanks to, and WHY? Who in your life has done things you are grateful for?

What about your parents or grandparents, your siblings, your children, your friends, your boss, or employers, etc.?

The BEATITUDES taught by Jesus in Matthew 5:1-12 have been called the BE-ATITUDES and are centered in the humble heart attitude of GRATITUDE – to BE GRATEFUL. Sadly, too often in this self-pleasing world we focus on the negatives and lose sight of the big picture blessings. We forget to think of the self-giving sacrifices that others have made for us.

When I was a youth, I often thought I was wiser than my parents and that they should have done more for me. I rejected much of what they believed and many of their values. I denied their belief in God, His self-sacrificing love through Jesus Christ, and all the rest of His Word in the Bible. I embraced macroevolution as my “Creator” and decided I knew best what was right or wrong, good or evil. I even did countless things that caused them hurt *personally* and dishonored them *publicly*. I was *self-deceived*.

Now I'm ashamed about how blind I was to the truth. The truth was that they didn't have to do most of the things they did for me. Even more, a lot of what they did cost them a lot, not just financially, but physically, emotionally, and relationally. Only as an adult with my own children did I realize that my father, for example, “gave” me his name. I'm a Galloway, which legally gave me the privilege of his protection and provision. That gift is even more wonderful when given to an adopted child, personally chosen with the embrace of grace. Finally, my response to new realizations as an adult was to write my parents a letter. It was not just an expression of thanks, but also a humble request for *forgiveness* and a renewed relationship.

Eventually after sincerely examining the evidence of science, philosophy, and world religions, I began to further realize an even greater need to GIVE THANKS. The growing mountain of evidence made it clear that my existence was not the result of a bunch of “natural” mystery-mechanisms. Matter and energy could not have arisen mysteriously from NOTHING, as atheistic scientists “believe”. That would have violated the first law of thermodynamics. Living cells with coded DNA information could not have mysteriously arisen from *natural* NON-living chemicals. That would have violated the law of biogenesis. The beautiful diversity of plants and animals with vastly different coded information genomes could not have come from *natural* mutation errors. That that would have violated the second law of thermodynamics and entropy. Most striking of all, consciousness (soul) and real love could not have arisen by natural *chance*.

All things, including me and you, logically owe our existence NOT to unseen, unknown “natural” mystery-mechanisms, but to a “*Supra-natural*” Creator, a FATHER in HEAVEN, who obviously desired to share His life and love with others. My ongoing search of the evidence - *that He has lovingly provided for all of us* - pointed to His personal revelation through history (His-story) as recorded in the Bible. Now, every year at THANKS-GIVING, my focus is centered first on HIM, as perfectly revealed through His Christ/Messiah, our Good Shepherd. I'm humbly and eternally grateful for what He did for me. He lived the pure life of love that I could not. He paid on the cross the death penalty I deserve for my selfish sin. He then rose and ascended to offer anyone who's willing - His forgiveness and transforming Spirit.

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

If you doubt the reality of what I've described above, then please sincerely and diligently search the evidence (Romans 1:20). If you are still like I was, and have rejected your Father, your Creator, please think about what you have done to Him. You've chosen to separate from Him. It would be like me separating myself from my dad, Sid Galloway Sr. Such a choice would be a form of publicly disowning my dad, and pretending that all the things he had done for me either happened by chance or were done by someone else. That, sadly, is what my rebellious life did to him – and to my Father Creator in Heaven. My hopeful prayer is that you will embrace His love and truth soon, before it's too late.