



Point of View

Dear Marketplace Friend,

Short week. Good thing. I don't think I can take much more "news." The 2009 crisis du jour routine is getting a little old. There is a problem, though: on the heels of the unrelenting barrage of unemployment numbers, profit reports, Wall Street investigations, Washington power plays, nuclear threats from rogue states, foreclosures and bank failures... what are Americans going to say around Thursday's turkey table?

When you need a little relief, you can often shift from the New York newsmakers to the Nashville music makers. Darryl Worley is one of Country's new faces, and he's putting some sanity to song. The chorus from his latest hit, "Sounds Like Life to Me" says it this way: "Sounds like life to me, plain old destiny. Yeah, the only thing for certain is uncertainty; you gotta hold on tight just enjoy the ride. Get used to all this unpredictability: sounds like life. Man, I know its tough but you gotta suck it up. To hear you talk you're caught up in



some tragedy; sounds like life to me. Sounds like life."

Years ago, when Worley heard himself for the first time on the radio, this was his reaction:

"I had sort of struck a deal with the good Lord a couple years before my first single came out. I was riding down on Nashville's Music Row a lot, looking for a new publishing deal. I was driving down through there one day just doing what we do - just kind of talking to Him and wondering just where all this was going to wind up. I had said, 'You know what? I'll make a deal with You. If you will let me get a song on the radio, you can put this vehicle anywhere you want it. The first time I hear that song, I will get out of my car, and I'll go to the back of my vehicle, and I will kneel down on my knees, and I will thank you for that moment.'"

Worley - son of a Methodist minister - should have known better. Nice to be grateful... but God doesn't make deals with struggling musicians - or, business owners, or college students, or soccer moms - to get the thanksgiving He deserves. Instead, He gives directions to His followers about where Thanksgiving belongs: *"Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person - such a man is an idolater - has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God."* (Ephesians 5:1-5)

As we head into Thursday, it should be - for Christians - just another day. *What?* That's right: just another day of avoiding the cultural pollution, and just another day of love - for the people around the table, and for the God whose human birthday we'll soon celebrate - and thanksgiving. Saying "thank you" to Him is a daily discipline that makes us grateful

people, not just when we hear our first song on the radio, but every day as we *live the Mission* and *anticipate the Return*.

My warmest wishes for a spectacular Thanksgiving break with your loved ones.

Bob Shank

Bob Shank is Founder and Chief Mentoring Officer of The Master's Program (TMP).

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