

From the Pastor's Desk....

Wild Turkeys, Wild Hearts

...with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word and deed, do everything in the Name of the Lord Jesus..."

Colossians 3:16-17

You can have a Wild Turkey sighting in all except the most Western states. The large bird isn't hard to miss with its chicken-like silhouette and grouse-like build. They occupy plenty of space trotting along the forest edge, or out in a clearing.

Try and chase one thought, and you will find out quickly that these birds are a curious combination of heft and well, speed. Weighing from 12 to 20 pounds, they can move at speeds of 18 mph on the ground, or 50 mph in the air. These ground dwellers can move fast if their lives depend on it, and at this time of year, their lives certainly do depend on it.

But Turkeys are also adept at putting on a show. Male Turkeys are territorial, each ruling over its area of clearing. A male Turkey can puff out its chest, fan its tail feathers and strut around in an extravagant display of audacity both to attract mates and assert his authority.

Wild Turkey, wild heart. That might also concisely describe the proud, sinful nature of man. Puff out our chest, lean into our choices, and we might make our case for autonomy, putting God in the back seat. As someone has once said, "No matter how bad things get, they can always get worse". And we will find out how much worse, should we give the reigns of our life to the sinful nature.

That inner, wild nature inside of us, struts its stuff, insisting that it knows the right way. This is how we get ourselves into trouble. We are too busy to pray, too worldly to seek spiritual things, and too caught up in ourselves to care.

One sinful choice might easily lead to another. But thankfulness is meant to bring us back down to earth. Paul binds the idea of following Christ with having a thankful heart.

Being thankful grounds us from getting too puffed up and prideful. Being thankful directs our hearts properly to the giver who is the Lord. The Lord, not us, is far more skilled at the controls.

In a way, God protects us, from ourselves. Being thankful helps stabilize and balance us on the inside. That is what spiritual truth is meant to do. Amen

Happy Thanksgiving,

Pastor Chris

