

## Pastor's Nickel

### Pastor's Nickel: Thanksgiving Prayer



*Pastor's Nickel*

The writers of the Heidelberg Catechism outlined it along the lines of "Guilt, Grace and Gratitude." As they did so, they included three major expressions of the Christian faith including the Apostles' Creed, the Ten Commandments and the Lord's Prayer. And they thoughtfully placed the Lord's Prayer in the section of "Gratitude." Not "Guilt" as though prayer's primary place was confession as our relation to God. Not "Grace" as though the only way that we can hope to receive God's grace was to be constantly in prayer. Rather, they noted that the primary place of prayer was in gratitude. God has shown us our guilt. And before we turned to him in repentance, he turned to us to show us grace. And so, in a relationship that is healed and restored, we now explore and express our relationship to God mainly by this action of stopping to pray, to speak with, to commune with our God. In a weekend of family gatherings and celebrations let us also stop to give thanks to the God from whom all blessings flow. *That's my nickel. Pastor Bob*