Date: 11/24/2018

Title: Turkey Pardon

Theme: In Christ, God has provided a pardon for every sinner.

Objects: Pictures of the turkey pardoning ceremony at the White House.

Text: Rom 5:8 (NIV) But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we wee still sinners, Christ died for us.

Now the day before Thanksgiving, it has become a tradition in our country for the President of the United States to pardon one or two turkeys.

People can vote on-line for which turkey they would like to see pardoned.

This year, the turkeys were named Peas and Carrots.

Most people voted for Peas to be pardoned.

So here I have some pictures of the turkey pardoning ceremony at the White House.

Here you see Peas, the turkey, standing on the table. He’s a real live bird.

In this picture, you see the president holding out his hand over Peas, the turkey.

This is the official sign of the pardon granted by the president to the turkey.

In the second picture, everyone is smiling. Do you see the turkey smiling there? He looks like he is pretty happy about being pardoned by the president.

Now if you’re a turkey, what does it mean to be pardoned by the President?

It means that you won’t be eaten the next day for Thanksgiving. Instead you get to live.

And they send you to a 10,000-acre farm where you can eat corn and live a happy life until you die a natural death.

If you don’t get pardoned by the president, you get your head chopped off, your feathers pulled out, you get baked in the over for eight hours, and you get eaten for Thanksgiving.

There were 244 million turkeys raised in the United States last year.

Two got pardoned, two got saved, two got set free, and the rest got eaten.

I’m glad I’m not a turkey, how about you?

But I’m glad for Peas and Carrots. I’m glad they got a pardon and got to live.

Now when I think of Peas and Carrots and how they got pardoned by the president, it reminds me of what God has done for us.

Because of sin, we were like the 244 million turkeys: all scheduled to die.

Why? Because we have all sinned, and the Bible says that the punishment for sin is death.

We have all rebelled against God; we have all disobeyed His commandments; we have all been selfish and unloving.

But even though we are sinners, God loves us and wants to pardon us and save us and set us free.

So He made a way for us to be pardoned.

It wasn’t easy, like just holding your hand over a turkey.

It was a very hard thing.

God sent His only Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for our sins.

In dying on the cross, Jesus took our punishment for sin.

Here’s God’s plan: if you love Jesus for dying for your sins, and if you’re sorry for your sins and ask Him to forgive you, then God will pardon you and let you live.

And we don’t just get to live a few more years on a 10,000-acre ranch and eat corn.

We get to live forever in God’s kingdom and have the time of our life.

Are you interested?

How many would like to get a pardon from God?

