

Thanksgiving



*“And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also y e are called in one body; and **BE YE THANKFUL**” (Colossians 3:15).*

The word *Thanksgiving* triggers a mixture of pleasant emotions within us and is one of the greatest American traditions that we celebrate. It is a day set aside to share God’s bounty with friends and loved ones. It awakens cherished memories of home and family and sharpens our senses with the lingering, mouth-watering aromas of baked turkey and pumpkin pie.

This annual holiday, observed on the fourth Thursday of November, commemorates the Pilgrims celebration of the good harvest of 1621. But *Thanksgiving* should be more than a child’s concept of Pilgrims, Indians, and feasting, it should be a way of life for all of us.

Have you ever gone out of your way to do something nice for someone and not even receive so much as a “thank-you?” I’m sure we all have at some time or another, and we don’t like it. It stands to reason if we put ourselves out, giving time, money and energy for someone, that the least the benefactor could do is appreciate our efforts enough to say “Thanks.” It’s amazing how much weight that word carries, and just how little it is used.

There are many wives and moms that would feel like millionaires if they just received a hug or a kiss on the cheek and a “Thanks mom,” every now and then. There are husbands and fathers who spend their lives working hard providing for their families, sometimes leaving

before daylight and returning after dark, who would feel like they had received the greatest bonus of all if they could be met by a sunny disposition and grateful attitude from their family.

Yet gratitude is not the area in which many of us excel. While we may feel slighted and disappointed in others who do not express appreciation for services we’ve rendered, we in turn, are most likely doing the same thing to the Lord. Have you ever wondered why King David was “*a man after God’s own heart,*” *Acts 13:22*? I know he was a psalmist who sang and worshiped the Lord, but if we take a closer look we find that David was thankful and always admonishing others to be as well. We are richly blessed. King David said “*He daily loads us with benefits.*”

I am sure that we disappoint the Lord many times by taking for granted the many benefits that he has so graciously loaded us with such as the water we drink, and the food on our tables. Not to mention provisions He has made for our salvation and healing, which was paid for by the blood His only begotten son Jesus. If we find ourselves not often getting our prayers answered or seeming to be less fortunate than others, maybe we should take inventory. Are we thankful for what God has already done? Let us do as King David and “*come before His presence with Thanksgiving...*” (*Psalms 95:2*) **daily**, not just once a year.

It stands to reason that if we are appreciative of what God has already done for us, and thankful for the prayers He's answered in times past, that He will more readily do it again. Since we are made in the image and likeness of God we get our feelings and emotions from our heavenly Father. When *our* efforts go unnoticed, we aren't quite as eager to make those same efforts again. But "*God is not a man,...neither the son of man...*" (Numbers 23:19), therefore "*He causes it to rain on the **just** and the **unjust**,*" and "*His mercy endureth forever.*"

"The Lord God, [is] merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and who will by no means clear the guilty...." (Exodus 34:6-7).

This is the God of the universe! And this awesome God is **my** Father. He loves **me**. He hears **me** when I pray. In **Him** I live and move and have my being. What could be more wonderful?! For this we can all be eternally ***Thankful*** every day of the year!

Happy Thanksgiving!!!