

IN OBSERVANCE OF THANKSGIVING

1. SCRIPTURES.

1. ***Enter His gates with thanksgiving.*** (Psa 100:4 KJV) Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.
2. ***Generosity leads to thanksgiving.***
 1. (2 Cor 9:11 KJV) Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.
 2. (2 Cor 9:11 NIV) You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.
3. ***With thanksgiving, make requests to the Lord.***
 1. (Phil 4:6 KJV) Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.
 2. (Phil 4:6 NIV) Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.
 3. (Phil 4:6 NRSV) Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

2. WHAT IS THANKSGIVING?

1. ***We should always give thanksgiving to the Lord.***
2. ***Why a special day?***
3. ***A time for corporate praise.***
 1. Should be a time that we as a corporate people or nation should take the time to express our gratitude to the Lord.
 2. We the people as a whole do so little in recognition of the Lord.

3. BRIEF HISTORY OF THANKSGIVING.

1. ***The Pilgrims Celebration.***
 1. The American tradition of Thanksgiving can be traced to the year 1623.
 2. Having gathered the harvest in November 1623, the governor of the Plymouth Colony, William Bradford, proclaimed: "*All ye Pilgrims with your wives and little ones, do gather at the Meeting House, on the hill... there to listen to the pastor, and render Thanksgiving to the Almighty God for all His blessings.*"
 3. The pilgrims were to demonstrate their gratitude to God for their survival.
 1. They had undergone terrific hardships in their migration to their new homes.
 2. After sailing 9 weeks on the open seas, the 102 puritans arrived in America on Nov. 9, 1620.
 3. That first winter was very difficult and they were not really prepared for the hardships they were to endure.

4. It was difficult for them to care for the sick because the sick out-numbered those who were healthy.
 5. By the end of the winter, many lives had been lost. It has been estimated that as many as one-half of the pilgrims may have died.
 6. The years that followed were filled with hard work and uncertainty.
 7. Still, they were comforted and encouraged by the Lord and were grateful for His blessing during those difficult years.
 8. (Hab 3:17 KJV) Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: (Hab 3:18 KJV) Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.
2. ***The first National Thanksgiving.***
 1. Over 150 years later, On November 1, 1777, by order of Congress, the first National Thanksgiving was proclaimed and signed by the President of the Continental Congress.
 2. The third Thursday of December, 1777 was designated "for solemn thanksgiving and praise.
 3. That with one heart and one voice the good people may express the grateful feelings of their hearts, and consecrate themselves to the service of their Divine Benefactor.
 3. ***A second proclamation of the Continental Congress.***
 1. November 28, 1782, a day of solemn THANKSGIVING to GOD for all his mercies was proclaimed.
 2. It was recommend to all ranks, to testify to their gratitude to GOD for his goodness, by a cheerful obedience of his laws, and by promoting, each in his station, and by his influence, the practice of true and undefiled religion.
 4. ***George Washington's Proclamation.***
 1. George Washington wrote a proclamation in which Thursday, the 19th day of February, 1795 was set aside as a National Day of Thanksgiving.
 2. He stated that it is "our duty as a people, with devout reverence and affectionate gratitude, to acknowledge our many and great obligations to Almighty God, and to implore Him to continue is our duty as a people, with devout reverence and affectionate gratitude.
 5. ***The first annual National Day of Thanksgiving.***
 1. On October 3, 1863, Abraham Lincoln and the U.S Congress established the first annual National Day of Thanksgiving "on the last Thursday of November, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens."
 2. So it is that on Thanksgiving each year, Americans give thanks to God.
 1. Acknowledging His blessings toward us throughout the year.

2. Our gratitude is not directed toward our jobs, our successes, our material blessings or our health; but rather we give thanks to our God for the grace and mercy He has granted.

4. A SUMMARY OF NATIONAL THANKSGIVING.

1. ***Nations which forget God.*** (Psa 9:17 KJV) The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.
2. ***Pilgrims.*** A Render Thanksgiving to the Almighty God for all His blessings. @
3. ***First Continental Congress.***
 1. With one heart and one voice the people may express the grateful feelings of their hearts, and consecrate themselves to the service of their Divine Benefactor.
 2. With humility seek God=s forgiveness of manifold sins.
 3. To take schools and seminaries of education under his nurturing hand.
 4. To prosper the means of religion for the promotion and enlargement of the Kingdom of God (righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost).
4. ***Second Continental Congress.***
 1. A day of solemn thanksgiving for all his mercies.
 2. Gratitude to God for his goodness by cheerfully obeying His laws, which is the foundation of public prosperity and national happiness.
 3. It is not only the duty of the people to offer supplications to Almighty God in time of distress, but also in a solemn and public manner to give him praise for his goodness in general.
5. ***George Washington.***
 1. It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, and to be grateful for His benefits.
 2. Specific thanksgiving.
 1. For His kind care and protection of the people of this country previous to becoming a nation.
 2. For the great degree of tranquility, union, and plenty which we have since enjoyed.
 3. For the peaceable and rational manner in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness.
 4. That we may unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations and beseech Him to pardon our national and other transgressions.
 5. That we may in public and private to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually.
 6. To enable us to render our National Government a blessing to all the people by constantly being a Government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed.
 7. To promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue.

3. *It is our duty as a people to acknowledge our many obligations to Almighty God with gratitude and to implore Him to continue the blessings we have experienced.* @

6. ***Abraham Lincoln.***

1. It is the duty of nations as well as of men:
 1. To own their dependence upon the overruling power of God.
 2. To confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon.
 3. To recognize that those nations are blessed whose God is the Lord.
2. We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven; we have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity; we have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation has ever grown.
3. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us.
4. We have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own.
5. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us.

5. **WHAT TO PRAY AND BE THANKFUL FOR.**

1. ***Give thanksgiving to God for all His bountiful blessings and benefits.***
2. ***Seek forgiveness of our national sins.***
3. ***To put God back into our schools and seminaries.***
4. ***That religion would be the vehicle into the realm of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.***
5. ***Thank God for all His mercies.***
6. ***Thankfulness for all His goodness.***
7. ***To publicly give Him praise for His goodness in general.***
8. ***Thankful for His kind care and protection of this country.***
9. ***Thankful for time of peace.***
10. ***Pray that our government will be a blessing to all the people by having integrity, wisdom, and justice.***
11. ***As Abraham Lincoln, whose proclamation, was a call to repentance.***
 1. Confess sins in humble sorrow with hope that repentance will lead to mercy and pardon.
 2. To not take for granted the bountiful blessings of God and by no means to take credit to ourselves for obtaining them.
 3. To realize that we are not self-sufficient; our dependency is upon the Lord.

