

“THANKSGIVING – MORE THAN A HOLIDAY”

Psalm 100:1-5

INTRO: Thanksgiving Day is a special time for us here in America. It dates back to 1621 when the Plymouth Pilgrims and the Wampanoag Indian Tribe shared a **HARVEST FEAST**, thanking God for His provision and care. The holiday did not become a national observance until President Abraham Lincoln established it as a national holiday in 1863. In 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a bill officially designating the **FOURTH THURSDAY OF NOVEMBER as THANKSGIVING DAY** that has been celebrated ever since. Personally, **THANKSGIVING** is one of my favorite holidays. But for the true Christian, **THANKSGIVING IS TO BE MORE THAN JUST A ONE DAY OF THE YEAR HOLIDAY. THANKSGIVING TO GOD IS TO BE A CONVICTION, AN ACT OF OBEDIENCE AND A REGULAR EXPRESSION OF PRAISE FOR THE TRUE CHILD OF GOD. SO TODAY FOR A FEW MINUTES LET’S CONSIDER THE SUBJECT – “THANKSGIVING – MORE THAN A HOLIDAY.”** It is significant to note that the words **THANKS OR THANKSGIVING** are mentioned at least 72 times in the Word of God, which by way of application, indicates that **BEING THANKFUL IS TRULY A BIBLICAL QUALITY THAT GOD DESIRES FOR EVERY ONE OF HIS CHILDREN.**

SOME OBSERVATIONS ABOUT THANKSGIVING FROM THE WORD OF GOD

- 1) Being thankful is a **COMMAND** of God’s Word – 1 Thessalonians 5:18a
- 2) Being thankful is an **ELEMENT** of God’s will – 1 Thessalonians 5:18b
- 3) Being thankful is the **RESULT** of the Spirit Controlled Life
-Ephesians 5:18-20
- 4) Being thankful is not **LIMITED** to just the good things of life
-Ephesians 5:20 – **“GIVING THANKS ALWAYS FOR ALL THINGS.”**
- 5) Being thankful is the **PROPER RESPONSE** to what we have in salvation
-Colossians 1:12
- 6) Being thankful is an **ACT OF SACRIFICIAL PRAISE** for the true believer in Christ – Hebrews 13:15

SPECIFIC ADMONITIONS FOR GIVING THANKS FOR THE TRUE CHRISTIAN

I. BE THANKFUL FOR THE UNSHAKABLE VICTORY WE HAVE IN CHRIST

1 CORINTHIANS 15:57

A. The Biblical Context – **OUR VICTORY OVER DEATH AND THE GRAVE**

1. Death is not to be feared for the believer – **IT HAS NO STING** – Vs.55a
2. Death is not a matter of defeat – **IT IS A PROMOTION** – 2 Corinthians 5:8

B. The Biblical Concept – **OUR VICTORY OVER THE WORLD – 1 John 5:4,5**

NOTE: THE “WORLD” SPEAKS OF THE EVIL DIABOLICAL SYSTEM THAT IS UNDER THE DIRECTION OF SATAN AND TOTALLY OPPOSED TO GOD.

1. By God’s Grace we do not need to yield to it – 1 John 2:15-17
2. By God’s Grace we do not need to be confirmed to it – Romans 12:2

APPLICATION: **BE THANKFUL FOR THE VICTORY WE HAVE OVER DEATH AND THE WORLD THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST.**

II. BE THANKFUL FOR THE UNSPEAKABLE GIFT WE HAVE IN CHRIST

2 CORINTHIANS 9:15

NOTE: “UNSPEAKABLE” = “INEXPRESSIBLE” = “BEYOND THE ABILITY TO DECLARE”

A. God’s Unspeakable Gift involves His Great Love for us all.

1. His Love is Eternal – Jeremiah 31:3
2. His Love is Sacrificial – John 3:16

3. His Love is Commendable – Romans 5:8
4. His Love is Inseparable – Romans 8:35-39

B. God's Unspeakable Gift involves His Glorious Salvation for us all.

NOTE: SALVATION IS THE OFFER OF THE DELIVERANCE FROM SIN THROUGH THE WORK OF CHRIST ON THE CROSS

1. Christ is the Door to our Salvation – John 10:9
2. Christ is the Name for our Salvation – Acts 4:12
3. Christ is the Grace for our Salvation – Acts 15:11
4. Christ is the Sacrifice for our Salvation – Romans 5:9
5. Christ will Appear with his Full Salvation – Hebrews 9:28

APPLICATION: BE THANKFUL FOR THE GREAT GIFT OF SALVATION YOU HAVE IN CHRIST – CONSIDER THE ALTERNATIVE!

III. BE THANKFUL FOR THE UNDERSERVABLE MINISTRY WE HAVE FROM CHRIST

1 TIMOTHY 1:12

NOTE: NONE OF US DESERVE TO BE A SERVANT MINISTER FOR CHRIST.

A. Christ has “**ENABLED**” us to serve Him – Through Spiritual Gifts
-Ephesians 4:7-16

B. Christ has “**ORDAINED**” us to serve Him -Through “putting us” into the ministry. The word “PUTTING” is the Greek word “**TITH-AY-MEE**” which literally means “**TO ORDAIN WITH A PURPOSE.**”
-John 15:16; Ephesians 2:10

APPLICATION: BE THANKFUL FOR THE HONOR YOU HAVE TO SERVE CHRIST THROUGH HIS ENABLEMENT AND ORDAINING YOU TO MINISTRY.

LESSON AND APPLICATION

THANKSGIVING TO GOD IS MUCH MORE THAN A HOLIDAY. IT IS AN EXPRESSION OF PRAISE AND WORSHIP UNTO GOD FOR WHAT HE HAS DONE FOR US, HAS GIVEN TO US AND ENABLES US TO DO FOR HIM THAT WILL BRING GREAT REWARD WHEN CHRIST RETURNS – REVELATION 22:12

“BEHOLD, I COME QUICKLY: AND MY REWARD IS WITH ME TO GIVE EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO HIS WORK SHALL BE.”

**” GIVE THANKS WITH A GRATEFUL HEART
GIVE THANKS TO THE HOLY ONE
GIVE THANKS BECAUSE HE’S GIVEN
JESUS CHRIST HIS SON.”**