

"O GIVE THANKS UNTO THE LORD"
A THANKSGIVING SERMON
1 CHRONICLES 16:1-36

INTRO: I am certain that **EVERYONE OF US LOOKS FORWARD TO THE THANKSGIVING SEASON** for various reasons. 1) For family gatherings. 2) For a vacation. 3) For Football. 4) For Rest. 5) For Food. Historically the **THANKSGIVING SEASON** has been a part of our heritage since the **TIME OF THE PILGRIMS**. On November 29, 1673 Governor William Bradford, the leader of the Pilgrims and the governor of the Plymouth, Massachusetts Colony made an official proclamation for a DAY OF THANKSGIVING when he said:

"TO ALL YE PILGRIMS:

IN AS MUCH AS GREAT FATHER HAS GIVEN US THIS YEAR AN ABUNDANT HARVEST OF INDIAN CORN, WHEAT, PEAS, BEANS, SQUASHES AND GARDEN VEGETABLE, AND HAS MADE THE FORESTS TO ABOUND WITH GAME AND THE SEA WITH FISH AND CLAMS, AND INASMUCH AS HE HAS PROTECTED US FROM THE RAVAGES OF THE SAVAGES, HAS SPARED US FROM PESTILENCE AND DISEASE, HAS GRANTED US FREEDOM TO WORSHIP GOD ACCORDING TO THE DICATATES OF OUR OWN CONSCIENCE;

NOW I, YOUR MAGISTRATE, DO PROCLAIM THAT ALL YE PILGRIMS, WITH YOUR WIVES AND YE LITTLE ONES, DO GATHER AT YE MEETING HOUSE, ON YE HILL, BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 9 AND 12 IN THE DAY TIME, ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER YE 29TH OF THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED AND TWENTY THREE, AND THE THIRD YEAR SINCE YE PILGRIMS LANDED ON YE PILGRIM ROCK, THERE TO LISTEN TO YE PASTOR AND RENDERED THANKSGIVING TO YE ALMIGHTY GOD FOR ALL HIS BLESSINGS."

Ever since that special day in our American History, THANKSGIVING HAS BEEN CELEBRATED by Christian Patriots of our Nation. BUT THANKSGIVING is more than a HOLIDAY! It is an EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE Christians should exercise on a regular basis. So today, let's take a look a the BIBLICAL ADMONITION TO GIVE THANKS UNTO THE LORD.

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BACKGROUND OF 1 CHRONICLES 16: The ARK OF THE COVENANT had been captured by the Philistines and remained with them for 7 months. Then it was sent back to Israel at KIRIATH-JEARIM, 10 miles northwest of Jerusalem, for 20 years. King David, having established Jerusalem as the national capital, assembled all Israel to bring the ARK back to Jerusalem with a grand ceremonial procession after which he gave thanks unto God as 1 Chronicles teaches.

In this chapter there are several lessons of THANKSGIVING for us to learn.

I. THE COMMAND OF THANKSGIVING VS. 34a

"O GIVE THANKS UNTO THE LORD"

- A. Thanksgiving is Expected By God
 - 1. It is NOT an option in His Eyes.
 - 2. It is NOT a simple occasion in Our Eyes
 - 3. It IS THE LIFESTYLE of the TRUE BELIEVER IN CHRIST!
- B. Thanksgiving is Expounded in Scripture
 - 1. Psalm 107:22 - It is a Matter of worship unto God.
 - 2. Colossians 1:12 - It is to be Rendered to our Heavenly Father
 - 3. Colossians 2:7 - It is to be an Abounding Expression
 - 4. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 - It is the Will of God in Everything.

ILLUSTRATION:

II. THE CAUSES FOR THANKSGIVING VSS. 34b,35

THE REASONS FOR THANKSGIVING

- A. For The Goodness of God - **GIVE HIM THANKS!**
 - 1. His Eternal Character - He is Unchangeable in Holiness
 - 2. His Moral Conduct - He is Genuinely Righteous
 - 3. His Perfect Creation - He made it all Good.
 - 4. His Personal Concern - He is Good to All mankind.
- B. For the Mercy of God - **GIVE HIM THANKS!**
 - 1. His Pity toward Mankind
 - 2. His Loving-kindness toward Humanity
 - 3. His Daily Rendering toward Us All
- C. For the Salvation of God - **GIVE HIM THANKS!**
 - 1. His Personal Gift to all who Desire it
 - 2. His Power over Sin and Death to all who receive it.

- D. For the Unification of God - **GIVE HIM THANKS!**
 - 1. He Unifies believers with Him through Jesus Christ.
 - 2. He Unifies believers with each other through Jesus Christ
- E. For the Deliverance of God - **GIVE HIM THANKS!**
 - 1. He Delivers Us from the Heathen - Satan's Minions
 - 2. He Delivers Us from our Adversary - Satan Himself
 - 3. He Delivers Us from this Wicked World - To Heaven

ILLUSTRATION:

III. THE CONDUCT OF THANKSGIVING VSS. 8,9

THE FOCUS OF OFFERING THANKSGIVING

- A. To God
 - 1. Through Prayer - Vs. 8a - "Call Upon His Name"
 - 2. Through Performance - Vs. 9a - "Sing Unto Him"
- B. To Others
 - 1. Through Proclamation - Vs. 8b - "Make known His Deeds"
(His personal work in our lives)
 - 2. Through Pronouncement - Vs. 9b - "Talk ye of all His Wondrous Works" (His works of Creation)

ILLUSTRATION:

LESSONS: True Thanksgiving will be THE DAILY ROUTINE for THOSE OF US who ARE walking CLOSE TO GOD and who know that GOD WORKS ALL THINGS TOGETHER for HIS GLORY and OUR GOOD! THANKSGIVING THAT IS TRULY RENDERED will bring GENUINE PLEASURE TO BOTH GOD AND THE BELIEVER.