

In All Things Give Thanks

Robert Johnson

A French proverb states, "Gratitude is the heart's memory." Many years before that, Aesop wrote, "Gratitude is the sign of noble souls" (550 B.C.). Throughout the years, an attitude of thanksgiving has been recognized as a reflection of the person we are inside.

According to tradition, the English Pilgrims, who had founded the Plymouth Colony in what is today the State of Massachusetts, celebrated the first American Thanksgiving in 1621. The Pilgrims marked the occasion by feasting with their Native American guests—members of the Wampanoag tribe—who brought gifts of food as a gesture of goodwill. Although this event was an important part of American colonial history, there is no evidence that any of the participants thought of the feast as a thanksgiving celebration. Two years later, during a period of drought, a day of fasting and prayer was changed to one of thanksgiving because rains came during the prayers. Gradually the custom prevailed among New Englanders to annually celebrate Thanksgiving after the harvest. As the years passed, the event became a national holiday, and in 1941 it was legally decreed an event to be celebrated annually on the fourth Thursday of November.

While our nation celebrates a day of Thanksgiving annually, the Christian should give thanks continually. "Always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father" (Ephesians 5:20). "In everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thessalonians 5:18). No matter our circumstances, in Christ we can always have a heart filled with gratitude for the rich blessings we have from God in Him, for today and eternally. None of our earthly problems can compare to the eternal glory we share in Christ (Romans 8:18).

Since every day is a day of God's blessings to us, every day should be a day of thanksgiving from us to Him. As mentioned before, an attitude of thanksgiving is a reflection of the person we are inside. Make it a part of each day to look for God's blessings, and what a difference it makes in how each day is lived. Does your life reflect this sign of a noble soul?

- Gospel Gazette Online -



Who does not thank for little will not thank for much. - Estonian Proverb

News Notes

CONVERT'S CLASS: No class this Thursday, Thanksgiving Day. Resumes Thursday, Dec. 5th at 11:00 a.m. Open to everyone.

NEW PHONE NUMBER: Beulah Walker, (304) 479-6441.

MEMORIAL SERVICE: For Marilyn Miller, next Saturday Nov. 30th, 11:00 a.m. here at the Church Building. Following, we will host a meal at the Fellowship Building. If you can help with the dinner in any way, please see Tracy Clutter.

PANTRY: Toilet paper.

HOSPITAL ADDRESS: For Ronald Miller, Ohio University Wexner Medical Center, 410 W. Tenth Ave., Columbus, OH 43210.

SICK & SHUT-IN: At Home: Sue Haught, John Sprout, Bob McMahan, Scharlotte Jones, Becky McKitrick, Dean Spencer, Harry Huff, Peggy Linger, Nancy Cox, Barbara DeLong, Cheryl Renfro Walker. **Fox-Chester:** Audrey Geer, Janice Hutchins, Mary Johnson. **Elsewhere:** Carolyn Carbone, 103 Orange Blossom Lane, Ranson, WV 25438. Herman McHan, 7401 Elmwood Dr., Lisbon, OH 44432.

THE HEART OF THANKSGIVING THANKFULNESS

Acknowledges
that God is our provider.
Prevents
a complaining spirit.
Creates
a positive outlook on life.
Invites
Joy to dwell in our hearts.

- Ken Crockett -
Forest Hill Church of Christ, Memphis, TN

Thank God for what you have; trust Him for what you need. - Author Unknown -

Gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues, but the parent of all others. - Cicero -

We count our miseries carefully, and accept our blessings without much thought.
- Chinese Proverb -

Gratitude is to thank God for all His infinite goodness with all your heart.
- Ottokar Prohaszka -

THANKSGIVING OBSERVANCE

by Author Unknown

Count your blessings instead
of your crosses;
Count your gains instead of
your losses.
Count your joys instead of your woes;
Count your friends instead of
your foes.
Count your smiles instead
of your tears;
Count your courage instead
of your fears.
Count your full years instead
of your lean;
Count your kind deeds instead
of your mean.
Count your health instead
of your wealth;
Count on God instead of yourself.