

Prerequisites of Thanksgiving

In keeping with a custom older than our nation, Americans will observe Thanksgiving this week. The first American day of Thanksgiving was proclaimed by Governor William Bradford of the Massachusetts Bay Colony on December 13, 1621. Since that time Thanksgiving has been a day reserved for the expression of gratitude to God for the many evidences of His sure and lasting mercies toward His creatures.

Perhaps this national holiday is an especially appropriate time for us as Christians to consider and celebrate the reasons we have for giving daily thanks to our Maker. And, as we do so, we would do well to reflect upon the following requirements of genuine thanksgiving.

1. **Thanksgiving Requires Thought.** The English words "think" and "thank" come from the same Anglo-Saxon root word. Perhaps one reason so few really thank is because so few really think! Let us learn to say: "We have thought on Your lovingkindness, O God ..." (Psalm 48:9).

2. **Thanksgiving Requires Contentment.** Our nation is characterized by a spirit of restlessness which mirrors the fundamental discontent of its people. We have the highest standard of living in history and we still are not satisfied! Paul caught the spirit of Christ when he said "... having food and clothing, let us be content." (1 Timothy 6:8).

3. **Thanksgiving Requires Worship.** Genuine appreciation seeks to express itself to its Benefactor. The highest form of thanksgiving is worship; the highest form of worship is thanksgiving. Thirty one times in the book of Psalms (the Jewish manual of worship) some form of the words "thanks" or "thanksgiving" appears.

4. **Thanksgiving Requires Service.** Real gratitude reaches out. Those who have been blessed with the bounty of God must share that bounty with others. The Christian must strive to become a conduit through which the blessing of God flows on to enrich the lives of those around him. As we have been blessed by God, so let us become His means of blessing others!

- Bobby Dockery, Fayette, AR

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

News & Notes

CONFESSION & REQUEST FOR PRAYERS: Wade Sprout.

SYMPATHY: To Helene Wilson and family at the passing of her brother, Lewis Heffner. God bless and comfort this family.

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Each Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. Join the ladies to help make bears for children.

PANTRY: Canned fruit and vegetables are needed. The donated turkeys will be distributed today to those in need.

CARE BOX: For Derek Thompson serving in the military in the Middle East. This Wednesday, Nov. 26th is the last day for collecting the items for the box. See Nancy Hadley for items needed. Collection box is in the foyer.

LADIES WORK DAY: Saturday, Dec. 13th, 9:00 a.m. at the Multipurpose Building to prepare baskets for the elderly and shut-ins.

SPECIAL REQUEST FOR PRAYERS: Ryan & Keeley White (young Christians in Nashville, TN) recently had twin sons. One of the twins, Reed was born with a defective heart and is in Vanderbilt University Hospital in need of a heart transplant. Keep this family in your prayers.

REMEMBER WITH PRAYERS & CARDS: *City Hospital (Skilled)*: Ella Beagle. *Trinity West*: Carl Miller. *At Home*: Gene Miller, Beulah Rice, Mary Jane Bowers, Blondenia Orr, Virginia Rickerd, Bertha Seman, Pauline Clutter, Will Montgomery, Dan Williams. *The following have had recent surgeries*: Marilyn Sprout, Randy Beagle, Michelle Hanlon, Bobby Sheville, Bette Gentry (will have radiation soon). Don't forget to encourage others confined to their homes and in nursing homes. They are listed on the bulletin board.

— The Devil & Thanksgiving —

There's an old European story about a traveler who came upon a barn where the Devil had stored seeds which he planned to sow in the hearts of people. There were bags of seeds variously marked "Hatred," "Fear," "Lust," "Despair," "Unforgiveness," "Envy," "Greed," "Drunkness."

Out from the shadows, the Devil appeared and struck up a conversation with the traveler. He gleefully told the traveler how easily the seeds sprouted in the hearts of men and women everywhere.

"Tell me," the traveler asked, "are there any hearts in which these seeds will not sprout?"

Glancing about carefully, the Devil shyly confessed, "These seeds will never sprout in the heart of a kind, generous, thankful and joy-filled person." - Author Unknown



*When thou hast eaten and art full,
then thou shalt bless the Lord thy God
for the good land which he hath given
thee.*

- Deuteronomy 8:10