

“THANKSGIVING DAY”

It has been recorded in the pages of history, and the annals of Congress, that this nation of ours should set aside and recognize one day a year as “Thanksgiving Day.” I cannot remember a single year that has ever passed wherein I was denied the opportunity to observe this national holiday, and most of the time those days of celebration were spent with family. This month will be my 60th such occasion, even though the first dozen years are not as vivid in my memory as the past dozen. “Thanksgiving Day”! What do those words mean to you? What thoughts and memories do they conjure up in your mind?

To some, this day is one of back-to-back football games, early morning Macy’s Thanksgiving Day parade on television, and the smell of turkey cooking in the oven, and left overs at days end. To others it is nothing more than an extended weekend, an extra day at the office, or an opportunity to spend some time in a lease waiting for that deer to drop by your way so you can bag a six pointer, or tell about the one that got away. But wherever you happen to find yourself this year when our national Thanksgiving Day arrives, why not stop and think for a moment or two about the very words used to describe this fourth Thursday of November.

Thanksgiving! Permit me to divide the single word into two words: “thanks” and “giving.” And what shall we say about thanks? Thanks is the expression of gratitude to another; a recognition that blessings received derive from some greater source than ourselves. The very existence of this special day on our calendar implies that we, the citizens of the United States, were once cognizant of a higher source of blessing than our own initiative or ingenuity. The original Thanksgiving Day proclamation saw fit to express gratitude “with grateful hearts the many and signal favors of almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peacefully to establish a form of government for their safety

and happiness.” The God of heaven has been replaced with the god of humanism, and thanks once offered to the Almighty has been replaced with self-exaltation for our great American know-how and efficiency.

Consider next the word giving. Thanks held to oneself is not gratitude; it is ingratitude. Though I may be grateful to another for some good deed done for me, unless expressed, the giver knows not if you are grateful. I would like to know how many tables will be spread, admired, eaten and digested this Thanksgiving Day without one word of thanks being given to the God of heaven Who blessed us with such abundance? On the other hand, maybe I really do not want to know.

Finally, there is day. It is singular, not plural. Though one day has been set aside in that original Thanksgiving Day Proclamation “to be devoted by the people of these states to the service of that great and glorious Being who is the beneficent author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be,” we do not think it was the intention of President Washington, nor the Congress that approved the holiday, to limit our thanksgiving to one day in the year. Beloved, God has not set aside only one day to bless His creatures, nor should we set aside only one day out of the year to offer thanks unto Him from whom all blessings flow. The dawn of every morning should find us in reverent prayer, expressing our gratitude for the opportunity to witness yet another sunrise, to get out of bed and enjoy the day’s activities, for our health and freedoms we enjoy, and the fact that He in Whom we live, and move, and have our very being, has granted unto us this day, one in 365, to experience the beauties of life about us.

Thanks-Giving-Day! May we be grateful for all it entails, and give rise to a deeper appreciation for what we have, not only today, but every day of the year.

Tom Wacaster

THANK GOD FOR THE BIBLE

Thank God for the Bible, whose clear shining ray
Has lighted our path, and turned night into day;
Its wondrous treasures have never been told,
More precious than rubies set around with pure gold.

Thank God for the Bible: in sickness or health,
It brings richer comforts than honor or wealth;
Its blessings are boundless, an infinite store;
We may drink at its fountain, and thirst nevermore.

Thank God for the Bible, sent down from above,
Revealing to mortals God’s infinite love;
A fathomless sea with its bright, shining shore
Where the glorified dwell and are safe evermore.

Thank God for the Bible — rich treasures untold
Are laid up in store in its city of gold,
That beautiful home of the saved and the blest
Where no sorrow can come, where the weary find rest.

Thank God for the Bible! How dark is the night
Where no ray from its pages sheds forth its pure light.
No Jesus, no Bible, no Heaven of rest —
Oh, how could we live, were our lives so unblest!

There are millions who wander in darkness today —
No Jesus, no Bible, no knowledge to pray;
God help us to feel, and to act, in His sight,
To render our thanks, now, by giving them light.

Gospel Digest - January 1959

“And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.”

Colossians 3:14-15

BIRTHDAYS

Natalie Parish, 11-22; Allen Scott, 11-25.

ILL

Sunday: Gary Cole; Janice and Jessica Carter (PM); Millie Robertson (PM). **Wednesday:** Chris Edwards. Evan Phlugardt was taken to the OMC Emergency room by George Thomas last Sunday evening.

Those battling cancer: Jamal Abyad, Diane Cannon, David Cole, and Ledgia Campbell. Please remember these, as well as: Janice Carter, Lynda Cole, Meredith Greer, Millie Robertson, Allen Scott, and Ralph and Helen Franklin.

HOME BOUND

Bob Adams is in Room D-4 of the Johnson County Nursing Center in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

OUT OF TOWN

Jeremy Keifer was visiting relatives in Oklahoma last Sunday. Verna Hanson was out of town last Sunday AM. The Thrasher's will be in Oklahoma City, OK this week.

LADIES CLASS

The Ladies Bible Study will be dismissed this Wednesday for the Thanksgiving holiday.

GUEST SPEAKER

Brother Jim O'Connor will be with us this Wednesday to teach the adult Bible Class and give a report of his mission work.

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 58; Sunday PM, 47; Wednesday PM, 54.

"Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Those To Serve

November 19, 2006

BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Nemechek

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Joel Nelson
SONG LEADER..... George Thomas
OPENING PRAYER Jeff Nemechek
PRESIDE..... John Cody Carter
ASSIST..... Jared Nelson
ASSIST..... John James
CLOSING PRAYER..... Charles Tullis

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER John Carter
CLOSING PRAYER..... Gary Cole
LORD'S SUPPER..... John Cody Carter

WEDNESDAY 22nd

SONG LEADER..... Ted Thrasher
INVITATION George Thomas

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Morning Worship 10:30 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

Phone: (913) 764-2325

E-mail: olathecoc@sbcglobal.net

CHURCH OF CHRIST

515 WEST PARK

P.O. BOX 482

OLATHE, KANSAS 66051

www.kc-cofc.org/olathe.htm

www.oabs.org/olathe.asp