

THANKSGIVING

INTRODUCTION

- A. This week we celebrate Thanksgiving, which began with English Pilgrims when local Indians brought food as a gesture of goodwill.
- B. However, it was not until 1863 Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday in November a "Thanksgiving" holiday.
- C. We sing, "Count your blessings, name them one by one."
 - 1. Perhaps if we did count them, we, too, would be more apt to remember how God has blessed us.
 - 2. Like the early settlers, we should be grateful for our blessings, being mindful of God from whom they come.

DISCUSSION:

I. BE THANKFUL FOR SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS.

- A. For Salvation - all lost if not for God's Grace.
 - 1. Redemption through Christ. 2Cor 9:15 Rom 6:17-18
 - 2. God called us by the gospel. 2Thess 2:13-14
 - 3. Victory that is in Christ. 1Cor 15:56-57
- B. For God's Care and Leadership 1Pet 5:7; Phil. 4:6-7; 1Cor 10:13; Heb. 13:5-6
- C. Being able to call God Father 1Jhn 3:1; Rom 8:14-15
- D. For our brothers and sisters in Christ. Mark 10:28-30
 - 1. Paul set example in giving thanks for fellow saints. Eph 1:15-16; Phil 1:3-5; Col 1:3; 1Thess 1:2-3; 2Thess 1:3; Phil 4-6
 - 2. We should be thankful for: The tie that binds us together as Christians; for those who set example of godly living.

II. BE THANKFUL FOR PHYSICAL BLESSINGS.

- A. For Food - each meal reminds of God's loving kindness. Then give thanks. Jhn 6:11; Acts 27:33-36; 1Tim 4:1-5
- B. For Clothing and shelter. Matt 6:25-34

A man interested in selling his house called a real estate agent and asked him what to do. The agent said, "Write up a list of the features and selling points." Several days went by, and the agent hadn't heard from the fellow. Calling him, he said, "I thought you wanted to sell your house." "I did," replied the man, "But when I made up the list of all that my house has to offer, I decided it was the perfect place for me!"

- D. For families; children. Psalm 127:3-5; parents. Eph. 6:1-4
 - 1. Think of all parents provide for children and often, all their love, care, and provisions are taken for granted.
 - 2. Children should "repay" their parents. 1Tim. 5:4
- E. For All Things (including our country) Eph. 5:20; 1Thess. 5:16-18
 - 1. Remember, all things come from God. James 1:17
 - 2. We should have an "attitude of gratitude."
 - 3. "Are you humbly grateful or grumbly hateful?"

- F. Someone wrote the following piece to show what would happen to the average American family if they were suddenly reduced to the annual income category of over 1/2 of the world's population.

"Take away the furniture, saving a few old blankets, kitchen table, and one chair; take away all the clothing except for the oldest dress or suit, a shirt, blouse, and one pair of shoes for the head of the family; empty the cupboards of food with the exception of a small bag of flour, some sugar, salt, a few molded potatoes, a handful of onions, and a dish of fried beans; dismantle the bathroom, shut off the water and remove the electrical wiring; exchange all automobiles for one bicycle, take away the house itself, and move the family into a tool shed; cancel all subscriptions to newspapers, magazines, and book clubs; put the nearest clinic or hospital 100 miles away, and put a midwife in charge instead of a doctor; discard the bank account, stock certificates, pension plans, insurance policies, and leave the family \$5 in cash; give the head of the family a few acres to cultivate to grow food for his family one-third of which goes to the landlord."

III. SOME THINGS FOR WHICH I AM THANKFUL. (List is endless - but permit me a few personal comments)

- A. I am thankful for you: you care for others and share without hesitation when needed; for loving friendships among brethren.
- B. I am thankful for those willing to teach classes.
- C. I am thankful for opportunity to work with you. You are patient, tolerant and supportive helping me grow in Christ.
- D. I'm thankful for those who give as prospered, liberally, cheerfully. Without which this congregation could not continue the work being done.
- E. I'm also thankful for those who use abilities God has given them to lead singing, wait on Lord's table, lead prayer, and present lessons from God's word
- F. I'm thankful for many friends in many places
- G. I'm also thankful for a wonderful family; a loving, supportive wife; faithful children, though not perfect; having had faithful parents and in-laws who encouraged me to be faithful as a Christian and in preaching the Gospel
- H. Above all I am thankful to God for life in Christ which results in hope of eternal salvation

CONCLUSION:

- A. We must be thankful every day, every waking moment for all God has done for us in providing a means of atonement for our sins and eternal salvation in heaven.
- B. Let us truly be thankful for the ways we are blessed in this country and remember that these blessings also come from God through his providential care for his creation.