



The Tri-Cities Edifier

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Thanksgiving

Lord Willing we will celebrate Thanksgiving this Thursday. Why?
Why do we celebrate a national day of Thanksgiving?

In 1789 President George Washington declared these words *“Whereas it is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor— and whereas both Houses of Congress have by their joint Committee requested me “to recommend to the People of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness.” Now therefore I do recommend and assign Thursday the 26th day of November next 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...”*

In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln declared Thanksgiving to be an annual day of remembrance and in 1941 President Franklin D. Roosevelt set the annual day to be the 4th Thursday of November.

So, on Thursday of this week we will have a national day of Thanksgiving and while there is no religious connection to the will of Christ, how wonderful it is to live in a country that was founded with God in mind.

Judging by the daily news in our day and time, I wonder just how

many Americans have God in their thoughts at all on this day or any other given day.

“The wicked in his proud countenance does not seek God; God is in none of his thoughts.” Psalms 10:4

Thanksgiving Day in America seems to be about food, fun, football and shopping to kick-off the holiday season. It appears that 23 retail stores will be opening their doors on Thanksgiving Day.

“Oh, that men would give thanks to the LORD for His goodness, And for His wonderful works to the children of men!” Psalms 107:8

While many will not have a thankful heart, let each of us remember to give thanks not only on this special holiday but on every day of every week of every year.

STACY

The Lord's Church in Your Community

- by Robert Turner

There are many churches in many places which have no bowling club, no softball team, nor do they sponsor a Boy Scout troop. The physical property of these churches includes a very modern place for assembly and worship, with class rooms for Bible Study; but in all of this widespread plant there is no kitchen, no banquet hall, no gymnasium, no party room.

Your first thought may be, “What strange churches! What strange people!” Perhaps. However, many of these church members are your neighbors and enjoy their food, recreation, and entertainment just as much as everyone else. But the church building is not used as a civic or social club. By now you may be asking, ‘Then what does this congregation offer me? What does she offer the community in which you live?’ These are fair questions and demand fair, open answers.

The church was established by Jesus Christ the Son of God, to fill a need, to do a work that no human institution could possibly perform. We deplore the fact that denominations have smothered the real purpose of the church beneath civic, social, and

domestic affairs. Upon reading Matthew 16:18; Acts 20:28; Ephesians 3:10-11; 5:25; and 1 Timothy 3:15 we need to be impressed with the sacredness of the church. She can have no trivial purpose, nor is such assigned to her by the Word of God.

But some say, "We live in the 21st century. The church must meet the needs of today!" Exactly so! We have many fine civic and social organizations which can meet the physical needs of our community, and we as individuals need to support and promote all wholesome efforts to better the lot of mankind in this life. But this 21st century is woefully lacking in emphasis upon the soul of man, and his eternal welfare. Yes, the church must meet the need of today - the very greatest need of all being the peculiar and distinctive benefit offered mankind by Christ - the salvation of their soul.

Our primary concern is with the spiritual needs of mankind - his need is for God, for forgiveness of sins, for genuine God-satisfying worship, for the pureness of conscience that can come only from living, working and worshipping according to the directions of the Word of God.

As a people we know we are not perfect, "For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves; but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise. But we will not boast of things without measure, but according to the measure to reach even unto you" (2 Corinthians 10:12,13).

We make no plea of greatness on our part, but pledge ourselves to strive diligently to follow the rule of God, the divine message. We speak where the Bible speaks, and are silent where the Bible is silent.

Visit with us and we will welcome your honest investigation of the church of Christ in this community.

Give Thanks in All Circumstances

by Jesse Flowers

"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thess. 5:18, ESV).

Christians are instructed to "be thankful" (Col. 3:15), as well as "giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Eph. 5:20). But to give thanks in ALL circumstances? Of course, it is not difficult to give thanks to God when things are going well in life. However, when things are not going well, then it is not so easy to do so. In fact, giving thanks and praise may not even enter our minds at such times. But our heavenly Father wants His children to possess a heart of gratitude at all times, in all circumstances. After all, "this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

I am reminded of those in the Scripture that continued to give thanks and praise to God in the midst of tremendous hardships and even heartaches. Individuals of great faith such as Job, David, Jeremiah, Paul, and of course Jesus Christ. And I am reminded of faithful saints today who continue to give thanks and praise to God in spite of their disease, chronic illness, loss, betrayal, and various other trials. I am truly thankful for brethren past and present who remind me in a very powerful and memorable way to "give thanks in all circumstances."

As we sometimes sing, "When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed, when you are discouraged, thinking all is lost. Count your many blessings! Name them one by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord hath done."