

Please Note...Business Meeting today at 4:00 p.m..

Bible verses about being thankful...

“Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.”
Colossians 3:17

“...in everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” 1 Thessalonians 5:18

November Birthdays

27 Lupita Guzman

December Birthdays

17 Bill Brown 27 Sue Tanner 29 Noah McKnight
30 Richard Karns 31 Robert Pescador

December Anniversaries

12 Ron & Peggy Woodruff 18 Jim & Marie Burruss

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Sunday.....6:00 p.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Preacher:
Mike McKnight

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Thanksgiving

The earliest documented Thanksgiving in America was in Plymouth Colony under Gov. William Bradford on July 30, 1623, in which “they set apart a solemn day of humiliation, to seek the Lord by humble and fervent prayer.”

During the Revolution, having thwarted Benedict Arnold’s plot, the Continental Congress proclaimed on October 18, 1780: “It is therefore recommended to the several states...a day of public thanksgiving and prayer, that all the people may assemble on that day to celebrate the praises of our Divine Benefactor; to confess our unworthiness of the least of his favours, and to offer our fervent supplications to the God of all grace...to cause the knowledge of Christianity to spread over all the earth.”

When the war was won, Massachusetts Governor, John Hancock, proclaimed December 11, 1783 “to be religiously observed as a Day of Thanksgiving and Prayer, that all the People may then assemble to celebrate...that he hath been pleased to continue to us the Light of the Blessed Gospel...to cause pure Religion and Virtue to flourish...and to fill the World with his glory.”

America’s new President, George Washington, proclaimed a day of Thanksgiving on October 3, 1789, “that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations, and beseech Him to pardon our national and other transgressions...to promote the knowledge and practice of the true religion and virtue.”

Later, President Abraham Lincoln established the first annual day of Thanksgiving for the last Thursday of November 1863, stating: “No human counsel hath devised, nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the most high God,

who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy...It has seemed to me fit and proper that God should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged, as with one heart and one voice, by the whole American people."

Thankfulness exists because God exists. Such an expression could never have evolved by chance from non-living matter. Granted, there are many who refuse to give God thanks, even though he continues to lavish blessings upon them; but, God will settle all accounts eventually. Meanwhile, giving thanks is an immanently biblical concept. *"For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving"* (1 Timothy 4:4). When we sit down to a feast this Thanksgiving (or any day), let's remember the source of all blessings. *"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights"* (James 1:17).

Must we give thanks if we are in difficult circumstances?

By Bob Prichard

When the world seems to be closing in on us, or when we feel like we have our backs up against the wall, giving thanks may be the last thing we would ever think of doing. We may reason, If I am in difficult circumstances, then I have no responsibility or need to be thankful. After all, we are to be thankful for blessings, not difficult circumstances. This reasoning is not correct, however, because all of God's children need to be thankful.

To be thankful in the midst of difficult times is very hard, yet Paul said, *"In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you"* (1 Thessalonians 5:18). How is this possible? Sometimes when we think the situation cannot get any worse, it does! But we must remember that when we belong to and serve God, no situation is hopeless. God's children can count on His providential care, and His never ending love. In the midst of our difficulties, we sometimes have a sort of spiritual amnesia. We forget all that God has done for us, and the difficulties He has helped us through. The psalmist reminded Israel of his wonderful works that he hath done. For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they

should make them known to their children: *"That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children: That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments"* (Psalm 78:4-7).

The difficulties most of us have faced pale into insignificance compared to the pain and suffering Job faced. His response to the loss of all of his possessions, and all ten of his children was to worship God. Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped, and said, *"Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD"* (Job 1:20-21). Job was able to do this because he was a man totally devoted to God. God described him as being a *"perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil"* (Job 1:8). When the difficult times came, Job was ready to trust in the Lord. He did not understand why he was suffering as he was, but He knew that God is worthy to be praised, even in the midst of the most trying times.

The attitude of gratitude, the spirit of gratefulness, must mark those who would follow the Lord. As Paul and Silas sat in the depths of the jail at Philippi, their feet in the stocks, having been beaten for their testimony of Christ, they prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them (Acts 16:25). They would not allow the circumstances to keep them from offering praise to God. In the midst of so many things we cannot understand or do not like, we must thank Him for those things we can understand, and the blessings He so richly gives us. Looking back, we should thank Him. Looking ahead, we should trust Him. Looking around, we should serve Him. He is worthy of all the praise and thanksgiving we can give Him.

*Thou hast given so much to me,
Give one thing more, - a grateful heart;
Not thankful when it pleaseth me,
As if Thy blessings had spare days,
But such a heart whose pulse may be Thy praise.
- George Herbert -*