

THANKSLIVING

We are once again in the midst of celebrating the Thanksgiving holiday in our nation. It is traditionally a time when families gather to feast and to enjoy one another's company. It is a time to reminisce about time spent together with family and friends, to recall fond memories of holidays past, and to make new memories that will last a lifetime. Thanksgiving provides us an opportunity to reflect upon all of the manifold blessings that God has given into our care. It is sad that many never pause to consider all of the ways that God has blessed them. It is somewhat shameful that it takes a national holiday to remind many to be thankful for every good thing that we enjoy. We are blessed so abundantly in this nation that it is almost incomprehensible that we could forget our blessings and Him from Whom all blessings flow. Yet, in many respects we have forgotten God "days without number" (Jer.2:32).

As Christians, we should ever be mindful of all that God has done and continues to do for us. Our hearts should overflow with gratitude for the provisions of a merciful and benevolent Creator. "Oh give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good; for his mercy endureth forever" (Psa.107:1). We have so much for which to be thankful: "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" (1 Thess.5:18). Every day for the Christian is a day of thanksgiving. "Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name" (Psa.100:4). "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God" (Phil.4:6). "Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Eph.5:20). For the child of God, thanksgiving is really thanksgiving. In other words, our lives are a constant expression of our gratitude for all that God has done for us. The best way to exhibit our thankfulness for every good and perfect gift that comes from above (James 1:17) is to live according to the will of God (1 John 5:3). A life of daily devotion to the will of the Master serves to keep us ever grateful to the Sustainer of our souls.

We must ever be on guard against ingratitude. Such a terrible trait should never characterize the child of God. Like the nine lepers healed by the Great Physician (Luke 17), many experience the blessings of God and never take time to thank Him. A lack of gratitude was one of the despicable sins of which the Gentiles were guilty (Rom.1:21). Such gross ungratefulness is to be expected from those who do not love the Lord, but it should never be named among the people of God.

For what are you thankful? The list of blessings which we enjoy is almost limitless. Take the time to count your many blessings. Allow your heart and mind to overflow with thanksgiving for God's every provision and care for you. Remember that every day for God's children is truly thanksgiving!

Patrick Morrison