

THE BIBLE VIEW

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Lincoln's Thanksgiving Proclamation

Abraham Lincoln, October 3, 1863

It is the duty of nations as well as of men to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God; to confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon; and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations are blessed whose God is the LORD.

We know that by His divine law, nations and individuals are subject to punishments and chastisements in this world. May we not justly fear that the awful calamity of civil war which now desolates the land may be a punishment inflicted upon us for our presumptuous sins, to the needful end of our national reformation as a whole people?

We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven; we have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity; we have grown in numbers, wealth, and power as no other nation has ever grown. But, we

have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us.

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. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November as a day of Thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens.

“In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” *1 Thessalonians 5:18*

Madison’s Thanksgiving Proclamation

James Madison, November 16, 1814

By the president of the United States of America — a proclamation.

The two Houses of the National Legislature having by a joint resolution expressed their desire that in the present

time of public calamity and war a day may be recommended to be observed by the people of the United States as a day of public humiliation and fasting and of prayer to Almighty God for the safety and welfare of these States, His blessing on their arms, and a speedy restoration of peace.

I have deemed it proper by this proclamation to recommend that Thursday, the 12th of January next, be set apart as a day on which all may have an opportunity of voluntarily offering at the same time in their respective religious assemblies their humble adoration to the Great Sovereign of the Universe, of confessing their sins and transgressions, and of strengthening their vows of repentance and amendment. They will be invited by the same solemn occasion to call to mind the distinguished favors conferred on the American people in the general health which has been enjoyed, in the abundant fruits of the season, in the progress of the arts instrumental to their comfort, their prosperity, and their security, and in the victories which have so powerfully contributed to the defense and protection of our country, a devout thankfulness for all which ought to be mingled with their supplications to the Beneficent Parent of the Human Race that He would be graciously pleased to pardon all their offenses against Him; to support and animate them in the discharge of their respective duties; to continue to them the precious advantages flowing from political institutions so auspicious to their safety against dangers from abroad, to their tranquility at home, and to their liberties, civil and religious; and that He would in a special manner preside

over the nation in its public councils and constituted authorities, giving wisdom to its measures and success to its arms in maintaining its rights and in overcoming all hostile designs and attempts against it; and, finally, that by inspiring the enemy with dispositions favorable to a just and reasonable peace its blessings may be speedily and happily restored

Johnson's Thanksgiving Proclamation

Andrew Johnson, October 12, 1868

By the president of the United States of America — a proclamation.

In the year which is now drawing to its end the art, the skill, and the labor of the people of the United States have been employed with greater diligence and vigor and on broader fields than ever before, and the fruits of the earth have been gathered into the granary and the storehouse in marvelous abundance. Our highways have been lengthened, and new and prolific regions have been occupied. We are permitted to hope that long-protracted political and sectional dissensions are at no distant day to give place to returning harmony and fraternal affection throughout the Republic. Many foreign states have entered into liberal agreements with us, while nations which are far off and which heretofore have been unsocial and exclusive have become our friends.

The annual period of rest, which we have reached in health and tranquility, and which is crowned with so many

blessings, is by universal consent a convenient and suitable one for cultivating personal piety and practicing public devotion.

I therefore recommend that Thursday, the 26th day of November next, be set apart and observed by all the people of the United States as a day for public praise, thanksgiving, and prayer to the almighty Creator and Divine Ruler of the Universe, by whose ever watchful, merciful, and gracious providence alone states and nations, no less than families and individual men, do live and move and have their being

“Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.”

— *Psalms 33:12*

Thanks Unto His Name

Gleaned from A Message by Pastor Michael Walls

I am convinced that many of us complain and murmur before the Lord instead of giving thanks unto Him. I believe we would be a much happier people if every day would be a Thanksgiving Day, as is celebrated in the United States.

Some people think only of the turkey that they will eat that day. Some people think of all the parades that they will see. Some think of all of the football games that they will watch that day. Some think of the great sales that the stores will be having the day after the holiday. Others have nothing for which they are thankful.

When I think of thanksgiving, I think about our Lord Jesus and what He has done for you and me on the cruel cross of Calvary.

I want to look at some of the things for which we should be thankful:

- I. THANKS BE UNTO THE LORD JESUS FOR HE IS THE TRUTH.

“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” John 14:6

- II. THANKS BE UNTO THE LORD JESUS FOR HE IS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH.

“And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.” Colossians 1:18

- III. THANKS BE UNTO THE LORD JESUS FOR HE IS ALMIGHTY.

“He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.” Psalm 91:1

- IV. THANKS BE UNTO THE LORD JESUS FOR HE IS NEAR.

“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” Matthew 28:10

“Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help

thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.” Isaiah 41:10

V. THANKS BE UNTO THE LORD JESUS FOR HE IS KING.

*“And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.”
Zechariah 14:9*

“Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.” 1 Timothy 1:17

VI. THANKS BE UNTO THE LORD JESUS FOR HE IS OUR SAVIOUR.

“For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe.” 1 Timothy 4:10

This is the time of year, especially in America, that we observe Thanksgiving. We should always be thankful. Many times, we are not always thankful. The opposite of thankful is ingratitude. The choice is yours.

“Some people complain because God put thorns on roses, while others praise Him for putting roses among thorns.”

In Everything Give Thanks

Author Unknown

Sunshine, cloud, or stormy days,
When hope abounds or care dismays,
When trials press and toils increase

Let not thy faith in God decrease —
In everything give thanks.

All things we know shall work for good,
Nor would we change them if we could;
'Tis well if only He command;
His promises will ever stand —
In everything give thanks.

He satisfies the longing Heart,
He thwarts the tempter's cruel dart,
With goodness fills the hungry soul,
And helps us sing when billows roll,
In everything give thanks.

“The worship most acceptable to God comes from a thankful and cheerful heart.” — *Plutarch*

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