



*"Offer to God a sacrifice of Thanksgiving, and pay your vows to the highest" (Psalm 50:14 \*).*

*"I will praise the name of God with song, and shall magnify Him with Thanksgiving" (Psalm 69:30 \*).*

*"Let us come before His presence with Thanksgiving; Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms (songs of Thanksgiving). For the LORD is a great*

*God, and a great king above all gods" (Psalm 95:2-3 \*).*

*"Enter into His gates with Thanksgiving, And His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him; bless His name. For the LORD is good; His loving kindness is everlasting, and His faithfulness to all generations" (Psalm 100:4-5 \*).*

*"Let them also offer sacrifices of Thanksgiving, and tell of His works with joyful singing" (Psalm 107:22 \*).*

*"To Thee I shall offer a sacrifice of Thanksgiving, and call upon the name of the LORD" (Psalm 116:17 \*).*

*"Sing to the LORD with Thanksgiving; sing praise to our God on the lyre" (Psalm 147:7 \*).*

Dear reader, we thank God for you and your faithfulness in support of our efforts to tell others of His great love for all His creation. *"For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received from us the word of God's message, you accepted it not as the word of men" (1 Thessalonians 2:13 \*).* Keep praying for us and with us as together we seek His guidance in the fateful days that lie immediately ahead.

*"Amen, blessing and glory and wisdom and **Thanksgiving** and honor and power and might, be to our God forever and ever. Amen" (Revelation 7: 12 \*)* so be it, Father.

Comments by Harry Bain

\* (New American Standard Bible; i.e., NASB)

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## Thanksgiving

*"Always giving thanks for all things." (Ephesians 5:20a \*)*

As the man sat quietly he thought back to many past Thanksgiving Days. A flood of memories filled his mind. He was born into a large family, and the parents struggled to provide the bare necessities of life. His family had come from their country house to the big city; his dad seeking a better future for the family.

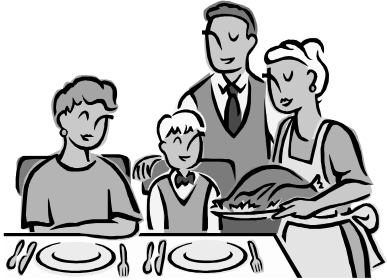
The days were lean for just about everyone as the Great Depression drew to a close. The man's earliest Thanksgiving memory was of a table on one Thanksgiving Day afternoon with barely enough food to feed the family seated around its edges.

As life moved on, it was just before the next Thanksgiving Day that the Lord saw fit to call dad home. The man's eyes filled as he remembered his dad asking him to be dad's "little man" as dad shared his last words with each family member.

Mom was left with little mouths to feed and care for. God somehow put a determination in mom to hold the family together despite the advice of others. As the man sat, he understood better the sacrifices given for him in those early days and throughout his life.

His thoughts turned to the greatest of all sacrifices given by the Lord. God gave his only-begotten Son for the man.

The man would, in God's time come to know the comfort of his best Friend and personal Savior, Jesus. Jesus stood with the man when no one else would.



Many Thanksgivings have come and gone since those days. Fond memories of happier times with family and friends gathered around the table served to push the sad times back further into the man's thoughts. Nevertheless, he took time to thank God for dimming the bad memories.

For many, today marks the last day of a four-day weekend that included Thanksgiving Day. If we took a moment to reflect on God's goodness, just in the past year, we stopped and offered Him our thanks. The Psalmist said, *"To Thee I shall offer a sacrifice of Thanksgiving, and call upon the name of the LORD"* (Psalm 116:17 \*).

The giving of thanks to God finds its roots in the agricultural society of the ancient world that existed after the creation. God noted that, *"there was no man to cultivate the ground"* (Genesis 2:5b \*). God breathed the breath of life into the man He formed to tend His creation. Any person who truly seeks to have that Godly life indwell him has since been filled with Thanksgiving.

Our ancestors came to America, founded this great nation, and set apart a special time to offer Thanksgiving for the LORD's blessing upon their lives. The story is in our history books. What was it that caused our forefathers to stop, think, and then offer Thanksgiving?

One answer is our forefathers realized that, despite all their hardships, they had a connection to the living God through Jesus Christ. They could not help but praise Him. There is perhaps no greater revelation to man than realizing their dependence on Jesus, Who is worthy of all Thanksgiving and praise.

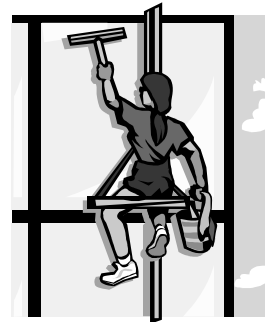
Almighty God takes responsibility for us, acknowledging that it was He, and not ourselves, who made us. He *"didst form my inward parts, (He) didst weave me in my mother's womb."* (Psalm 139:13 \*)

We are told that, His *"eyes have seen my unformed substance; and in Thy (His) book they were all written."* (Psalm 139:16a \*)

Gosh, God even chose us to be in Him, before the foundation of the world! Almighty God chose us before He said, *"Let there be."* If we can grasp it, God knew us before he created anything back in the beginning! \*) Is it any wonder that our forefathers stopped their labors on that first Thanksgiving Day and offered Thanksgiving?

God has invested a lifetime preparing us for the work He has for us today. *"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them"* (Ephesians 2:10 \*).

We have a job to do. He alone knows the number of our days to get our work done. Only He knows how many more days we have left on planet Earth. God helps us to discover the work he created just for us to do. The Psalmist said, *"The days that were ordained for me, when as yet there was not one of them"* (Psalm 139:16c \*).



We think of David, as he tended his sheep way out there on the hillsides -- just him and the animals for company. He looked into the sky and saw the moon and some of the millions of stars that helped light the night around him. God led David to compose songs of Thanksgiving.

Following David's example, it may do us good to stop long enough in this busy life to look up at night and allow our hearts to utter a silent "thank you, LORD." Think of all the words of Thanksgiving the Holy Spirit gave David during those times he spent tending his sheep:

- *"That I may proclaim with the voice of Thanksgiving, and declare all Thy wonders"* (Psalm 26:7 \*).