

Thanksgiving To God

A Study of the Blessings
in the Christian's life



Thanksgiving Day



- First held by Pilgrims in 1621
- Instituted as a nationally observed day in 1863 by Abraham Lincoln through work of Sarah Josepha Hale
- Legally established to be observed on the 4th Thursday of November by congress in 1941
- 46 million turkeys sold in 2012 (736 million lbs.)
- 5,062,500 gallons of cranberry sauce consumed during the holiday season
- A Thanksgiving plate ranges from 2,000 to 3,200 calories.

The Point



- Thanksgiving Day is indicative of what is available to us each day!
- We should be thanking God for our blessings!
 - Psalm 105:1 – “Oh, give thanks to the LORD! Call upon His name; make known His deeds among the peoples!”
 - Psalm 106:1 – “Praise the LORD! Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *He is good!* For His mercy *endures forever.*”
 - Colossians 3:17 – “And *whatever* you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”

Thanksgiving To God
for Salvation and
Abundant Life



Salvation



- Without God's grace, we would be condemned to eternal damnation
- Our sin means death, while God's grace means life – Eph. 2:1-4
- Christ tasted death for us – Heb. 2:9
- God's gracious sacrifice resulted in our reconciliation and hope of eternal life – Rom. 5:10; Titus 3:4-6

Abundant Life



- Jesus promised abundant life to His followers. Do you fully experience it? – John 10:9-10
- There are so many blessings offered to Christians!
 - God’s special care – 1 Pet. 5:6-7
 - Extraordinary peace – Phil. 4:6-7
 - Full fellowship with God and His people in the “light” of Christ – 1 Jn. 1:3-7; 2:1-2
 - Life lived with confidence by faith, while looking with joy to our eternal salvation – 1 Pet. 1:8-9

Thanksgiving To God for Our Spiritual Family



The Blessing Of Our Brethren's Love



- Will any worldly group love you as will your brethren in Christ?
- Your brethren's standard of love is the sacrificial love of Christ – 1 Jn. 3:16
- Does the world follow God's command to love as do your brethren? – 1 Pet. 1:22
- Does the world understand that they will be judged by God's standard of love as do your brethren? – 1 Jn. 2:9-10

The Blessings Of Our Brethren's Faith



- Have you considered the encouragement that the common faith of your brethren brings? – Eph. 1:15-16
- Therefore, to be thankful for your brethren of like faith is only fitting – 2 Thess. 1:3
- If you ever begin to ponder life outside of Christ, remember that your brethren know your God, provide you a safety zone, use their talent to build you up, give their time, energy, and money for the good of the church, attend to the sick, and provide a warm smile of welcome and acceptance for you at the assemblies.

Thanksgiving To God for Our Physical Blessings



During the Holiday Season:

Consider the Blessings Around You



- Consider how our stores are full of food and merchandise...and customers able to pay.

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**God will not tolerate
ingratitude! – Jas. 1:17;
Rom. 1:20-21**

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Matt. 6:31-

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- Few of us have ever had to “worry” about the basic needs of life.
- We can eat for pure enjoyment...while none of us deserve this!

Conclusion



- Is there any doubt that God has blessed you abundantly?
- Is there any doubt that God deserves your unending thanks for these blessings?
- I hope that this will help to refocus your thoughts upon the wonderful spiritual and physical blessings from God you enjoy.
- Never forget to praise God in thanksgiving! – Psalm 106:1