Thanksgiving

Introduction

Scripture Reading: Psalm 95:1-6

1. **This coming Thursday this nation will celebrate Thanksgiving.**

2. **George Washington penned the "First National Thanksgiving Proclamation."**

Whereas, it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor. Whereas, both the houses of Congress have, by their joint committee, requested me....

"to recommend to the people of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer, to be observed to acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness!"

Now therefore, I do recommend next, to be devoted by the people of the state to the service of that great and glorious being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be, that we may then all unite in rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks for His kind care and protection of the people of this country.

October 3, 1789 — George Washington

3. **Our aim today is to follow the instruction of 1 Thessalonians 5:18 which says....**

1 Thessalonians 5:18 "in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

What Does Thanksgiving Look Like?

1. Thanksgiving is seen as a spiritual sacrifice, an offering to Jehovah.

Psalms 116:17 I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving, And will call upon the name of the LORD.

Leviticus 7:12 If he offers it for a thanksgiving, then he shall offer, with the sacrifice of thanksgiving, unleavened cakes mixed with oil, unleavened wafers anointed with oil, or cakes of blended flour mixed with oil.

2. It is also seen as a duty, under obligation because of the multitude of blessings in which we receive from Him.

2 Thessalonians 2:13 But we are bound to give thanks to God **always** for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth,

3. Thanksgiving should be a regular part of our prayer.

Ephesians 1:16 do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers:

A. Be thankful every chance that we get. Let God hear us!
Philippians 1:3-4

Psalms 34:1 I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

4. It is done through the name of Christ

Ephesians 5:20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

5. God wants His people (you and me) to be thankful.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Philippians 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

6. The individuals pictured in heaven fell on their faces to worship and thank God!

Revelation 7:11-12 All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying: "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, Be to our God forever and ever. Amen."

7. Those associated with the peace of God were called to be thankful.

Colossians 3:15 And let the peace of God rule in your **hearts**, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

What Should We Be Thankful For?

1. The Lord's benefits.
Psalm 103:1-5

2. For God's goodness and mercy.

1 Chronicles 16:34 Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.

3. For wisdom from above

Daniel 2:23 "I thank You and praise You, O God of my fathers; You have given me wisdom and might, And have now made known to me what we asked of You, For You have made known to us the king's demand."

4. For Christians!

1 Thessalonians 1:2 We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers,

5. For salvation through Christ.

2 Corinthians 9:15 Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

6. For the Word of God which changes lives.

1 Thessalonians 2:13 For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.

7. For answered prayer.

John 11:41 Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me."

8. For the victory!
1 Corinthians 15:57-58

Conclusion

1. The Word tells us the following:

Psalms 140:13 Surely the righteous shall give thanks to Your name; The upright shall dwell in Your presence.

2. As Christians, we truly have so many things to be thankful for in our daily lives.

A. May we strive to stay focused on what is really important while we take our turn to journey on God's creation called earth.

B. We are looking for the day that Jesus will judge us (John 12:48), saying, "well done, good and faithful servant" so we can dwell eternally with Him!

3. Truly, we have so much to be thankful for.

Invitation

Place **Date**

Thanksgiving.wpd
Richie Thetford, November 2026 (Based on an outline by Bobby Stafford)