

# Thanksgiving

November 24, 2024

## I. Introduction

- A. "Praise (or thanks) is a vital living force that should be the healthy exercise of every Christian."
- B. Praise: to express a favorable judgement of
- C. Thanks: an expression of gratitude
- D. Thanksgiving: a public acknowledgement or celebration of divine goodness and mercies
- E. First Thanksgiving: December 4th, 1619 (Charles City, VA)
- F. First New England Thanksgiving: July 30, 1623
- G. George Washington: November 26th
- H. In 1941, Congress declared that Thanksgiving be celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November
- I. Biblical Thanksgiving: Leviticus 7:11-15

## II. Things That Cannot Be Separated from Biblical Thanks – Psalm 100

- A. It must contain joy – vs. 1, 2
  - 1. Note verse 2, (Serve the Lord with gladness)
- B. Thanksgiving is a response of submission – v. 3
  - 1. Hebrews 13:15, 16
- C. It must contain praise – vs. 4, 5

## III. Things That Prevent Us from Being Thankful

- A. Lack of forgiveness – Ephesians 4:31, 32
- B. Lack of humility – thanks needs to be verbally expressed
- C. Lack of understanding and acceptance of the sovereignty of God
  - 1. Psalm 115:3; 135:6
  - 2. We cannot be thankful to God when we question His judgement
  - 3. The God who breaks our heart is the only one who can heal it

## IV. What Being Thankful Will Do for You

- A. It will increase your faith – John 14:29

- 1. Being thankful causes us to see what our loving God has already done for us (Romans 8:23), thus what He wants to do and can do presently.
- B. It turns trials into blessings, Genesis 50:15-21 cf. 20; Job 42:1-6 cf. 5
- C. God little books
  - 1. *Sometimes Mountains Move*, Koop & Koop
  - 2. *Dearest Debbie*, Evans
  - 3. *Not by Accident*, Fleece