

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

November 15, 2016

Issue No. 273 Mark Aites, Editor

Thanksgiving

"I am grateful for what I am and have. My thanksgiving is perpetual." – Henry David Thoreau

"Pride slays thanksgiving, but a humble mind is the soil out of which thanks naturally grows. A proud man is seldom a grateful man, for he never thinks he gets as much as he deserves." – Henry Ward Beecher

"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 implore His protection and favor." – George Washington

"I invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States and also those who are at sea and those...in foreign lands to set apart and observe...Thursday...as a day of thanksgiving and prayer to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens." – Abraham Lincoln, October 3, 1863

"Thanksgiving Day comes by statute, once a year; to the honest man it comes as frequently as the heart of gratitude will allow." – Edward Sandford Martin

Perhaps one of the things that eludes men most is a heart of gratitude. But even then, how can they be grateful if they lack humility? It is only when we realize how small we are in the greater scope of things do we then find it within ourselves to truly be thankful.

"Oh, that man would give thanks to the LORD for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men!" (Psa. 107:8). The encouragement to be thankful to the Lord is found numerous times in Scripture.

The admonition of the the apostle Paul is one to take to heart. "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thess. 5:16-18). The desire was for us to be grateful in all things, an admonition that is sorely needed in the time in which we live.

Man wants us to feel deprived, cheated; the very thing which Satan did in the garden of Eden with Adam and Eve. (We forget how cunning and deceitful he truly is. – Gen. 3:1) The goal of the evil one is to get us to focus on what we do not have. Such will only lead us to feelings of bitterness, and then, how can we possibly feel grateful?

"...Be thankful to Him, and bless His name" (Psa. 100:4). "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful" (Col. 3:15).