

CHURCH OF THE
E T E R N A L

"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all the nations; and then shall the end come." – Matthew 24:14

November 19, 2012

Dear Brethren and Friends:

At this time of year, the issue of being thankful always comes to the forefront in the US with the day of Thanksgiving. It was originally declared by President George Washington, "as a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favours of Almighty God." Also in his Thanksgiving proclamation in 1789, he stated, "It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible."

In 1863, President Lincoln proclaimed Thanksgiving Day as a day set aside to give God thanks for the blessings He continued to bestow upon America, stating: "I do... invite my fellow-citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next as a day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens."

In recent history though, it has become increasingly secular, as this country moves away from God and anything to do with Him.

What about us? Of course we know that we are to be thankful not just in this season but ALWAYS. So are we? Or are we trending with the rest of the world in their move away from being truly thankful to the Provider of all things?

What we recognize as a Christian, is that everything comes from God. He created the Universe and all that is in it. He placed us here on Earth to take care of and use its resources. We did not do anything to earn this gift. It was given to us freely. We, and those within our realm of influence, are able to benefit from it.

Are we thankful for that?

As a person in and with whom God is working intimately, it even goes beyond that. He has an active part in seeing to it that we are blessed beyond what we may ordinarily be. God insures that what He has given us to use multiplies in a way that it would not naturally. He does this for us, not because we are entitled to it, but because we are His begotten children.

Are we thankful for that?

But more importantly, God has given to us spiritually. He granted and grants us forgiveness of our sins, and He gave and gives us graciously of His Spirit. We did nothing to earn it—it was given to us freely. He willingly opened up to us gifts of insight and understanding as well as letting us partake of His character. Through these gifts we more closely see the better way of life, a path that leads to eternal salvation.


Are we thankful for that? Are we really?

If we truly appreciate what someone has given us, it is only courteous to say thank you. How much more thankful then should we be to God our Father for all that He gives us?

Should we not be so continually in our coming in and going out; do so in our rising up and going down? If we take the time to reflect on how God has given to us in “good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over,” how can we not be appropriately appreciative?

God always wants us to be thankful when we come into His presence (Psalm 100:4; Philippians 4:6). We are to be giving thanks always for all things (Ephesians 5:20; 1 Thessalonians 5:18). We should never take any of the manifold blessings that we have received for granted—from the least of them to the greatest.

In Christian love,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wray Zehrung". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of the printed name.

Wray Zehrung