**“BE YE THANKFUL AT THANKSGIVING”**

**Intro.**

 ***A. The Thanksgiving holiday started in the small Plymouth Colony***

 ***in 1621 when the English Pilgrims feasted with members of the***

 ***Wampanoag (Wampanoag) Indians who brought gifts of food***

 ***as a gesture of goodwill. The custom grew in various colonies***

 ***as a means of celebrating the harvest. In 1777, over 100 years***

 ***later, the continental congress proclaimed a national day of***

 ***Thanksgiving (a single event) after the American Revolution***

 ***victory at the Battle of Saratoga. But, it was twelve years***

 ***later that George Washington proclaimed another national day of***

 ***thanksgiving in honor of the ratification of the Constitution,***

 ***and requested that the congress finally make it an annual***

 ***event. They declined, and it would be another 100 years before***

 ***President Abraham Lincoln in 1863, in order to bolster the***

 ***Union's moral, proclaimed the last Thursday in November of each***

 ***year to be a "Thanksgiving" holiday.***

 ***B. As Christians We sing, "Count your blessings, name them one by one."***

 ***1. Perhaps if we did count them, we, too, would be more apt to***

 ***remember how God has blessed us.***

 ***2. Like the early settlers, we should be grateful for our***

 ***blessings, being mindful of the One from whom they come.***

1. **LET US BE THANKFUL FOR THINGS OF A SPIRITUAL NATURE.**
2. **For Salvation.**
3. **We all would be lost if not for God's Grace.**

 **a. We need to be thankful for the redemption which is**

 **provided through Christ.**

***2 Cor. 9:15 15Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.***

***Rom 6:17-18; 17But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.18Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.***

 **b. - Likewise, we can give thanks**

 **because God chose us through believe of the truth, and**

 **called us by the gospel.**

***2 Thess. 2:13-1413But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:14Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.***

 **c. Let us be thankful for the victory that**

 **is in Christ.**

***1 Cor. 15:56-57 –56The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.57But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.***

 **2. In every prayer to God, let us give thanks to God for**

 **salvation given to us through His Son Jesus Christ.**

 **B. For God's Care and Leadership.**

 **1. Once we have obtained salvation, God continues to care for**

 **us and provide us with leadership.**

***1 Pet 5:7; 7Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.***

***Phil.4:6-7; 6Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.7And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.***

***1 Cor 10:13; 13There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.***

***Heb. 13:5-6 5Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.6So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.***

 **2. God continues to show His care and leadership in our lives;**

 **so, let us be thankful.**

 **C. For the privilege of being able to call God our Father.**

***1 John 3:1; 3 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.***

***Rom 8:14-15 14For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.15For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.***

 **D. For our brothers and sisters in Christ.**

***Mark 10:28-30 28Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee.29And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's,30But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.***

 **1. Paul set the example in giving thanks for fellows saints.**

***Eph 1:15-16; 15Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints,16Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;***

***Phile.4-6; 4I thank my God, making mention of thee always in my prayers,5Hearing of thy love and faith, which thou hast toward the Lord Jesus, and toward all saints;6That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.***

***1 Thess. 1:2-3; We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers;3Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and o3 of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;***

***Phil 1:3-5; 3I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,4Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy,5For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now;***

 **2. We should be thankful for:**

 **a. The tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.**

 **b. Those who set an example of godly lives.**

 **c. Those who teach God's word.**

 **d. Those who use their abilities to lead singing, read,**

 **pray, clean the building, prepare the Lord's table, give**

 **liberally of money, time, and energy, visit the sick,**

 **encourage the weary, are ready to lend a kind word, and**

 **who wear a warm smile to greet us.**

1. **LET US GIVE THANKS FOR THINGS OF A PHYSICAL NATURE.**
2. **For Food.**

 **1. Many passages show giving thanks to God for food. John**

 **6:11; Acts 27:33-36; 1 Tim. 4:1-5**

 **2. With each meal we should be reminded of God's**

 **lovingkindness and, thus, bow our heads in thanksgiving.**

1. **For Clothing.**

**Matt 6:25-34**

 **C. For Shelter.**

 **1. A man interested in selling his house called a real estate**

 **agent and asked him what to do. The agent said, "Write up a**

 **list of the features and selling points." Several days went**

 **by, and the agent hadn't heard from the fellow. Calling him,**

 **he said, "I thought you wanted to sell your house." "I did,"**

 **replied the man, "But when I made up the list of all that my**

 **house has to offer, I decided it was the perfect place for**

 **me!"**

1. **For our families.**
2. **For our children.**

***Psalm 127:3-5 3Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.4As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth.5Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate.***

1. **For our parents.**

***Eph. 6:3-4 3That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.4And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.***

 **a. Think of all that parents have proved for their children.**

 **Often, all their love, care, and provisions are taken for**

 **granted.**

 **b. Children should "repay" their parents.**

***1 Tim. 5:4 4But if any widow have children or nephews, let them learn first to shew piety at home, and to requite their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God.***

1. **For All Things.**

***Eph. 5:20; 20Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;***

***1 Thess. 5:16-1816Rejoice evermore.17Pray without ceasing.18In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.***

1. **Remember, all things come from God.**

***James 1:17 17Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.***

 **a. We should have an "attitude of gratitude."**

 **b. An old question, "Are you humbly grateful or are you**

 **grumblely hateful?"**

 **F. Someone wrote this to show what would happen to the average**

 **American family if they were suddenly reduced to the annual**

 **income category of over 1/2 of the world's population.**

 **1. He said, "Take away the furniture, saving a few old**

 **blankets, kitchen table, and one chair; take away all the**

 **clothing except for the oldest dress or suit, a shirt,**

 **blouse, and one pair of shoes for the head of the family;**

 **empty the cupboards of food with the exception of a small**

 **bag of flour, some sugar, salt, a few molded potatoes, a**

 **handful of onions, and a dish of fried beans; dismantle the**

 **bathroom, shut off the water and remove the electrical**

 **wiring; exchange all automobiles for one bicycle, take away**

 **the house itself, and move the family into a tool shed;**

 **cancel all subscriptions to newspapers, magazines, and book**

 **clubs; put the nearest clinic or hospital 100 miles away,**

 **and put a midwife in charge instead of a doctor; discard the**

 **bank account, stock certificates, pension plans, insurance**

 **policies, and leave the family $5 in cash; give the head of**

 **the family a few acres to cultivate to grow food for his**

 **family one-third of which goes to the landlord."**

 **G. Let us truly be thankful for the ways we are blessed in this**

 **country.**

**Concl.HYMN….**

1. **Thanks thanks, I GIVE YOU THANKS FOR ALL YOU’VE DONE, MY SOUL IS AT REST CAUSE I AM SO BLESSED, OH LORD I GIVE YOU THANKS.**

**SONG…”THANK YOU LORD FOR YOUR BLESSINGS ON ME”**

1. **We close with this poem by L. B. Strawn entitled, "Thank You."**

**Thank you for your mercy, Lord,**

**And thank you for your love.**

**Thank you for your holy word**

**Which came from heaven, above.**

**Thank you for the Savior**

**Who came to earth and died**

**That we might truly savor**

**Your grace, to us, implied.**

**Thank you for each blessing, good,**

**For health and strength and life.**

**Thank you for our daily food**

**And, even Godly strife.**

**Thank you for each family**

**And thank you for each home.**

**Thank you for eternity**

**Which, someday soon, will come.**

**Give us strength, Oh Lord, to cope**

**With problems which we face,**

**That we may keep that promised hope**

**To live with you through grace.**

**Grant to us that you'll forgive**

**As we repent from every sin,**

**That, in eternity we'll live,**

**In Jesus' blessed name, amen.**