

A THANKSGIVING PRAYER

On this Thanksgiving Day, dear Lord,
My thanks are most sincere
For all the blessings You bestowed
Throughout the passing year...

For health, for work, for special joys,
For family and friends...
And for our nation under God,
Your goodness never ends!

But help me understand, dear Lord,
And may I clearly see
That just one day is not enough
To thank You properly...

And that my thanks today are small
For gifts that You outpour,
Unless I've thanked You other days...
Three-hundred-sixty-four!

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

SOME INFORMATION

Thanksgiving, an annual holiday in the United States, is celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November. The first Thanksgiving, three days of prayer and feasting was celebrated by the Plymouth Colonists in 1621 to give thanks for their first harvest and for surviving the first terrible Massachusetts winter. (The day was observed by the proclamation of Governor William Bradford.)

The first national Thanksgiving Day, proclaimed by President George Washington was celebrated on November 26, 1789. It was only in 1863, however, that it was made an annual holiday by President Abraham Lincoln, who named the last Thursday in November, Thanksgiving Day. For 3 years (1939-1941) under President Franklin D. Roosevelt, the day was celebrated on the third Thursday in November, primarily to extend the Christmas shopping season which traditionally began after Thanksgiving. The holiday was returned to the fourth Thursday of November by congress in 1941.

In Canada, Thanksgiving first observed in November, 1879, is a legal holiday celebrated on the second Monday in October.

AN EXPLANATION

We will have no special assembly of the Lord's church at Perry Hill Road this Thursday. God did not give us a calendar of holy days to be observed in the New Testament age, other than every first day of the week. The Lord did not name an annual day for us to meet for thanksgiving, but rather had the apostle Paul write that we should be, "***giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,***" (Ephesians 5:20)

However, we trust that November 23, 2006 will be a day when families, friends, and

brethren will be able to be together to eat, reminisce, enjoy blessings, and thank God for His bountiful love and care for all mankind. The word “thanksgiving” is found 31 times in the New King James Version of the Bible.

If we will admit it, I suspect that most of us who read these words do not remember to thank God often enough for His constant love and provision for us all.

We hope that this bulletin will help us to be aware of our lapse, and do more praying with thanksgiving to God. May we also remember to thank God for our country, for our friends, and for our loved ones.

*“Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with
“thanksgiving”; Colossians 4:2 (NKJV)*

“May God bless us everyone.”

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