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GOD'S MISSIONARY STANDARD

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"The Lord gave the word: great was the company of those that published it." Psalms 68:11.

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National Thanksgiving

Dr. Andrew Johnson

There is a difference between Thanksgiving as a national institution and the thanksgiving offered by the Christian. National Thanksgiving is recognition of a Supreme Being as the source of all temporal blessings. There are four ways by which the nation as such recognizes God.

First, there is a recognition of God on the American dollar. Take the old cart wheel silver dollar—on its surface there are the words, "In God we trust." Now this is a unique recognition of God by the United States. Every dollar passing as legal money over the counters of the country recognizes the Supreme Being.

The second way in which the American nation recognizes the Lord is through Congress. One may ask, "What has Congress to do with the idea of religion? Is it not composed of worldly politicians, diplomats, and unscrupulous men?" We might say there are good and bad in Congress, as in all other institutions, but what we mean by their recognition of God is the fact that Congress is always opened by prayer; they never begin a session without first having the chaplain offer prayer. This is a formal recognition of God by the government of the United States.

Third, the people of this nation also recognize a Supreme Being in times of war. There is not only the sound of the trumpet, the blast of the bugle, the scream of the fife, shot and shell, and the roar of cannon; but before any battle begins the army recognizes a Supreme Be-

ing in a prayer offered by the chaplain.

Fourth, this country recognizes Christianity in its chronology. The date on every letter we write, every legal document, and every official stamp means Anno Domini, in the year of our Lord. Religion is so interwoven and deeply stamped in the very constitution and general make-up of the American nation that it is absolutely impossible for the atheists to get rid of the thought of God.

While there is a recognition of a Supreme Being on the American dollar, in the halls of Congress, on the far-flung line, and in the very date of all legal documents and letters, there is perhaps the greatest recognition of a Divine Power in the institution of the National Thanksgiving Day. Early in the history of our country Governor Bradford called upon the people of his colony to recognize God in the observance of a special Thanksgiving Day. George Washington, the father and founder of the American nation, wrote the first presidential proclamation for a National Thanksgiving. This custom has been preserved by every president down to the present time, and is a very fine custom. The people of the United States are asked by the Chief Executive of the nation to repair to their respective houses of worship on the last Thursday of November, and there to offer their thanks to Almighty God for His temporal blessings and providential care.

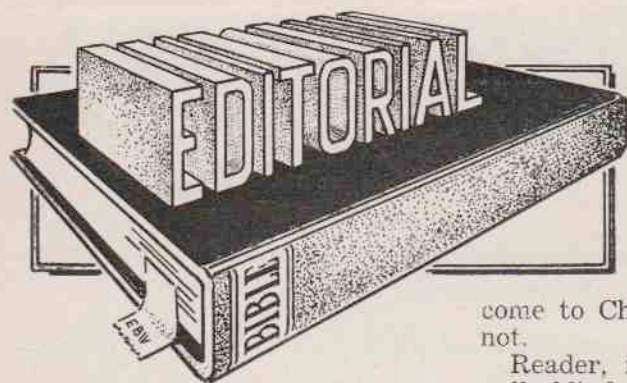
We have thought of the National Thanksgiving Day as a great mir-

ror. The Bible speaks about the looking glass. The way the people observe Thanksgiving reflects the character possessed by each one.

Millions of people observe the day, but the way they consider it and the manner in which they observe it reflects upon their own lives and reveals their character. Some people think of the day only as a great sporting day—they are ready for a hunt or a fishing tour; it means only a big jolly time for them. There are others who think more of Thanksgiving turkey and a big sumptuous meal, something to eat; they are like the old Greek Epicureans. There are others who emphasize the social aspect of the day; still others emphasize the political, the national aspect of the day; they think of the history of this nation and its great men and fundamental principles. The Christian people look at the day in another light, or in a different light from all these mentioned; they like to attend worship, to go to the church house and there hear a sermon on thanksgiving; they kneel and worship God and in their hearts really give thanks not only for temporal, but for spiritual blessings. Then they are not interested in a dinner merely for themselves, but they think of supplying the poor and needy with food and refreshments on this National Thanksgiving Day. Now let us think of Thanksgiving as being a great mirror and realize that our characters will be reflected by the way in which we observe this time-honored institution.

The Psalmist praised God and rendered thanks for all the divine benefits. The joy of the Lord is

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Sightlessness

"He hath blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts; that they should not see with their eyes." (St. John 12:40)

While driving through a busy city lately, I noticed a sightless man being guided by a seeing-dog. Holding to his arm was a lady also sightless and needing him for guidance. I thought within myself, what a tragedy to be sightless. While thinking upon it this truth began to weave itself into my soul.

There are thousands of people who though seeing, yet do not see. While they, with perfect eyes look upon the handi-work of God, with blinded spiritual eyes of faith they cannot see, the God of creation. I know that no man has seen God and lived, yet, with the eye of faith one can see him in a very wonderful sense. How thankful we should be at this thanksgiving season that we can see physically and how much more thankful if we can see spiritually.

Spiritual sightlessness is beyond doubt the most tragic of all blindnesses. Jesus inferred that one may get to heaven without physical vision, yet it is impossible to make it without spiritual vision. There are at least four reasons why folk cannot see;

I. Some are born blind

These are the unfortunate folk who never did see. There are many folk who being born physically, never do see spiritually. One born blind physically can only see if a miracle is performed. How true it is that all men are born spiritually blind, yet they can come to the Great Physician and through a miracle of Grace and love are made to see. The blind man said, this is a marvelous thing whereas I was blind now I see. He had met Jesus. It is sad to see those who could

come to Christ and see, but have not.

Reader, if you are still spiritually blind, why not come to Jesus and be made whole?

II. Some because of tragedy or illness are blind.

It is indeed, a tragedy that some have never had the light which enables one to see. I visited with a man sometime ago who went to a very liberal church, as we talked about the word of God, I mentioned the new birth to him. Upon being questioned about this thought I pointed him to the Gospel of John Chapter three. With bewildered look he said to me, "I never heard of that before. I wonder why our preacher never mentioned that!" A tragedy indeed and he was sightless because of it.

Certain illnesses cause one to lose his sight. The greatest illness that has afflicted the church, is the liberal element. Many can no longer see what they used to see because this illness is robbing them of their vision. In the case of our text it is implied that something had happened and as a result they could no longer see. How sad it is to see those who once were spiritual now becoming sightless because of illnesses.

III. Some are willfully sightless

I read a very true, but foolish account of a man who wanted to see how long he could live without sight or sound. He locked himself in a sound proof and dark cell with a supply of concentrated food and water intending to let himself out after a given time, however, in the darkness of the cell he misplaced the key that would open the door to freedom. When he finally located it and the lock and let himself out into the world, he had been in the darkness so long that all sight had gone.

Many an individual has walked so long against light from God, that he like the above man has become willfully sightless. Many say, "I cannot see it that way, or

I don't see it like that in the Bible," when all the time they have willfully closed their eyes and refused to see the truth. May God help us in this day of enlightenment to accept the truth and walk in the light.

IV. Finally, God has blinded the eyes

The text declares that this people had disbelieved God so long that God no longer permitted them to see. How tragic to desire to see but cannot. Reader, have you ever wondered how it would feel to know God had forever closed the door of hope and you, with no other choice, must go spiritually sightless.

A childhood acquaintance of mine spent his last days in a padded cell, screaming and wailing, and tearing his hair, why? He had trifled with God given light

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Let Us Give Thanks

By Carl N. Hall

"I will praise thee with my whole heart: before the gods will I sing praise unto thee" (Psalm 138:1).

This the first in a cluster of eight Davidic Psalms (138-145), is a beautiful Thanksgiving Psalm. It is crowded with jubilant reasons for thanksgiving.

Before we consider the reasons for singing this thanksgiving song, let us linger a moment in the vestibule of this first verse to get an idea of what I think is at least the implication taught. Exegetes have questioned much as to the precise meaning of the phrase, "before the gods will I sing praise unto thee." Some say "gods" here means angels. Matthew Henry believed the word to mean princes, judges, and great men. Spurgeon felt that David referred to the neighboring nations, and the deities of the surviving Canaanites. At any rate, there is nothing more trying to a true man's soul than to be surrounded with vile counterfeits or secondary deities. But the Psalmist is determined not to permit these idols to rob God of his praises! He pushes on in praise to Jehovah and makes thanksgiving to him the cry of his heart.

Very few of the Psalms have so much crowded into such small compass. David, with a few dashes of his pen, delineates those features of the character of God which make him the worthy object of grateful praise. How pregnant is this Psalm with reasons for thanksgiving!

Let us give thanks for divine promise. "For thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name." The "word of promise" made to David was in his eyes more glorious than all else that he had seen of the Most High. Revelation excels creation in the clearness, definiteness,

and fullness of its teaching. In his Word, God has given many exceeding great and precious promises, and they are all worthy of acceptance, for God in his fulfillment is better even than in his promises. What God freely promised, he has faithfully performed; what he has spoken with his mouth, he has fulfilled with his hand. Here, then, is an excellent reason for praising God, because he has manifested so much of himself, especially of his loving-kindness and faithfulness to us in his Word. Our revelation is much fuller and richer than was that of David, therefore our praise should be heartier and more confident than was his.

Let us give thanks for divine pity. "In the day when I cried thou answeredst me." No proof more effectively convinces than that of experience. One cannot doubt the power of prayer after he has received an answer to his supplication. It is the distinguishing mark of the true and living God that he hears and answers the prayers of his people. "In the day when I cried" seems to suggest that the answer came to David's prayer almost as soon as it was out of his mouth.

I stood amazed and whispered,
"Can it be that He hath granted
all the boon I sought?"

How wonderful that he for me
hath wrought!

How wonderful that he hath answered me!"

O faithless heart! He said that he
would hear

And answer thy poor prayer; and
he hath heard

And proved his promise! Wherefore
didst thou fear?

Why marvel that thy Lord has
kept his Word?

More wonderful if he should fail
to bless

Expectant faith and prayer with
good success.

Let us give thanks for divine power. "And strengthenedst me with strength in my soul." It is one gracious way of answering our prayers when God bestows upon us spiritual strength to overcome rather than removing the obstacle. There is no higher blessing—ability to bear and do. Perowne advances an interesting thought: "Thou madest me courageous with strength in my soul." If God does not remove Paul's "thorn in the flesh," he develops Paul's character by proving to him that his "grace is sufficient." God has not forgotten you. He will supply you with an inner strength with which to meet demands. Praise God for his overcoming grace!

Let us give thanks for divine protection. "Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me." When it appears that the air of trouble will suffocate the Christian, God puts into it the oxygen of his sustaining grace. God air-conditioned the fiery furnace until Nebuchadnezzar, the persecutor of the three Hebrew youths, said, "Lo I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God." "When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee." He is in a blessed condition who can confidently use the language of David—"Thou wilt revive me." How often has the Lord quickened us by our sorrows and troubles! Are they not God's most effective means of exciting to fullness of energy the holy life which dwells within us? If we receive revivification, we need not regret affliction.

Let us give thanks for divine persistence. "The Lord will perfect that which concerneth me." The Lord will not leave his work unfinished; he will complete what

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All This, and Jesus Too

A businessman had occasion to go to the house of an elderly Christian lady who was known to be very poor, but at the same time very pious and fervently devoted to her Lord. Being about the noon hour when the businessman reached the house that Aunt Mollie (as she was known) called her home, he heard a voice out through the partly open door. Stepping a little closer to the door and looking in, here is what he saw and heard: Aunt Mollie was sitting at her table, hands clasped and eyes closed, giving thanks to God for the one slice of bread and the cup of water that was before her. Her Thanksgiving prayer consisted mainly of the words that appear at the head of this article, "All this, and Jesus, too," repeated over and over again. The man tiptoed away, not wanting to disturb such sacred devotion as he had just witnessed, and with such things as she had.

Sure enough, whether you have much or little at this Thanksgiving season of the year, you have it, and Jesus, too. And whatever it is, you will enjoy it better and appreciate it more if you have Jesus with it. The Bible says, "A little that a righteous man hath is better than the riches of many wicked." It is better, because if he has God, he is contented, for the Bible says, "... Godliness with contentment is great gain." If financial fortune has smiled upon him to the extent that he is blessed with plenty, he can enjoy his plenty better if he has Jesus, too, and will be more inclined, of course, to use it to the glory of God. If he has but little of earthly goods, he can get along much better with his little if he has Jesus, too, for he can sing with the poet, "I'm rich as can be when my Savior I see, I'm happy with Jesus alone."

The story is told by a missionary who had spent many years in a foreign land, of another missionary who always seemed to see the dark side of things, her limited income, the many things she had to do without that she once enjoyed, until she unconsciously developed a complaining disposition. Coming into her plain little room one day, she saw a beautiful motto hanging on her mirror with these words standing out, seemingly speaking

directly to her, "TRY THANKSGIVING." It seemed that a whole sermon had been preached to her in a moment of time. As she stood riveted to the spot for the time being, a voice seemed to say, "Well, are you going to try it?" Instantaneously, she fell upon her knees with the hot tears fairly burning her cheeks, and asked God to forgive her for the complaints of the past. She began to give thanks, thanks and more thanks until her soul was fairly lifted to heights of love and satisfaction that hitherto she had not thought possible. It was said by the missionary who told the story, that the one-time complainer had developed into one of the best missionaries on the field. Why? Because she tried thanksgiving, and found it to be the key to her future success and happiness. If you have found an inclination within you to complain, try thanksgiving.

"In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

"Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise," (Psa.100:4).

—The Church of Christ Advocate.



Thanksgiving

Walter E. Isenhour

For clouds that send their drops of rain
And give the little seeds their birth;
For fields that yield their crops of grain,
And skies that shine above the earth;
For mountains valleys, plains, and hills
That make the landscape, and rills,
For oceans, rivers, streams, and rills,
O God, in thanks we look to Thee.

For birds that sing their cheerful songs

That greet us at the break of day;

For every heart of man that longs
To bless us all along life's way;

For food to eat and clothes to wear
Homes, and beds,

For health and strength and daily care,

O God, in thanks we bow our heads.

For our great privilege to live

Where schools and churches dot the land;

Where men their best to others give

In time and service that is grand
Where Christians love and pray

and sing
And add dear brothers to their rolls;

Where men to right and freedom cling,

O God, in thanks we lift our souls.

For Thy good Word and saving grace,

And for our glorious flag unfurled;

And for the right to fill our place
In this great nation of the world

For Christ who came from Heaven's throne

And died upon the cruel tree,
That He might crown us as His

own,
O God, we thank and worship Thee.



Loving and Living

A Christian girl, testifying in a crowded meeting of her love for Christ, was interrupted by a man on the back seat, who said, "That's all right, but how do you behave at home?"

Quick as a flash she responded, "There is my mother sitting just in front of you. Ask her."

The mother arose and said, "She lives at home just as she talks here."

There is something wrong with our profession of love for Christ if it does not make us Christlike in our homes.

—Sel

The darkest shadows of life are those which a man makes for himself when he stands in his own light.

A PAGE FOR YOUTH

Thanksgiving in Alaska

by R. C. Cunningham

It was Thanksgiving at a lonely military outpost in Alaska. Uncle Sam had served turkey, making the men feel as much at home as possible on this traditional American holiday. But conversation in the quonset hut inevitably turned toward home and loved ones.

"Say, would I like to be in Albany today!" moaned one long-faced young corporal, who had not had a furlough in three years.

"Or Houston!" moaned a private.

"Or Denver!" moaned another.

"Thanksgiving day was a red-letter day at our home."

"Fellows, maybe by another Thanksgiving this'll all be over, and we'll be eatin' turkey with our folks once again," said the youngest sergeant. "Here's hoping. In the meantime, I guess it won't hurt us to recall other Thanksgivings we've enjoyed. Let's go the rounds, and let each fellow describe the happiest Thanksgiving he ever had."

That started things. For the next hour the little group around the box-stove in Alaska forgot their troubles and lived in their memories, as one after another told of the happy Thanksgivings of other years.

"Your turn, Sarge," they said finally. "We all had our say but you."

"Well, fellows, it may sound strange, but the happiest Thanksgiving I ever had was right up here in Alaska," he said.

There was a general groan. "A happy Thanksgiving, here in this bleak old wilderness?"

"Yes, it was just before the war," explained the Sarge. "My cousin and I had flown to Alaska with my uncle, on a scientific expedition. We had our Thanksgiving dinner in the little town of Nome, after passing through a really thrilling experience. Let me tell you about it.

"While my uncle was busy, my cousin and I went exploring along the shores of the Bering Sea. An Eskimo guide was with us. We were out on the ice examining the big chunks that the sea had piled up, when suddenly something hap-

pened. The wind did it, I guess. Anyway, a great section of ice broke loose from the shore, and we found ourselves on an ice floe going out to sea.

"That was bad enough! But what should we find on the floe with us but a big mother bear and two cubs! Even our Eskimo guide was scared. A polar bear is not dangerous under ordinary conditions, if you leave her alone; but when she has cubs nearby, she's liable to attack you if she thinks you are going to harm them.

"Well, we kept near the Eskimo, you might know! And we kept our eyes peeled for that big bear and her cubs, too. We wanted to be as far from them as possible.

"It was fun, in a way. We watched her catch a seal in the water. She was sure a smart old critter. She found some dead fish and fed them to her cubs, too. But each time she sank her teeth in that big, juicy seal I shivered at the thought that if God didn't protect us we might be the next course on her menu!

"After a while she seemed to have lost her cubs, for the time being; and in searching for them she roamed near us. I don't think she saw us—fortunately; but we saw her. My cousin and I hid on the top of a big icepile. We had no weapons whatever. The Eskimo hid behind another pile. All he had was a dagger, but he was ready to use it if the bear made trouble. Much to our relief, however, she went on by. That was the closest shave we had."

"Say! That was an experience," said the corporal.

"Yep! But that wasn't all," went on the Sarge. "There we were, marooned on an ice floe in the Bering Sea! No fire! No food! Nothing but a big bear and her cubs for company! We were in a dangerous spot.

"Well, if you want to know what happened, we had a prayer meeting. We reminded the Lord that He shut the lions' mouths for Daniel, and we asked Him to keep the bear's mouth shut for us. We asked Him to let us reach land again, too, before we starved or froze to death. And He answered in a miraculous way.

"Suddenly, as we drifted along, there was a jarring thud. We must have hit a submerged iceberg. At that moment our floe broke away from us — and what do you think we saw on it?"

"The bear!" exclaimed a private.

"No, better than that — the two cubs! And the mother bear, seeing dove into the water and swam to join them!"

"What happened then?" they asked.

"Another miracle! Answered the Sarge. "Our ice floe floated to an island where some seal hunters lived. They were very kind to us, and took us back to the mainland in a boat.

"The day after we returned to Nome, it was Thanksgiving. And, take it from me, fellows—that was the happiest Thanksgiving I ever had. I had plenty to thank the Lord for — don't you think?"

"I'll say!" echoed the rest. And they all joined in a real Thanksgiving service, giving thanks to Him who alone can perform such miracles in answer to the prayers of His children.

—High-School Christian.

It Matters Not

It matters not if I've been hurt;

It matters not at all

That sometimes from my weary eyes

The scalding tear drops fall.

What matters most — is if I've erred

And not confessed the sin
And through my lack — some
needy soul

Has failed to follow Him.

It matters not if cherished friends;

On whom I leaned in vain
Have wounded me by word
And left me with my pain.

What matters is — Can I forgive
Again, and yet again?

It's not, "Have they been true,"
but "Lord,
Have I been true to them?"

"Twill matter not when evening comes;

How rough the road I've trod,
If only I have walked with Him
And led some soul to God!

For when I wake to be like Him,
Who saved me by grace
Earth's pain will vanish when I see
One glimpse of His dear face!

On Giving Thanks

By A. B. Simpson

When should we give thanks? "In every thing give thanks." It was when the darkest clouds were accumulating around him that Jesus rejoiced in spirit and said, "I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth." It was when Paul and Silas were bleeding from their cruel stripes in the inner prison that they prayed and sang praises unto God. It is when we thank the Father for the petition we have asked that the answer most swiftly comes. Surely, then, when our cup is overflowing and our blessings are more in number than the sand, we should bless the Lord and not be forgetful of his benefits.

Why should we give thanks? Because his kindness deserves it, and his loving heart is pleased to receive our grateful acknowledgments, and to own them by richer mercies.

Because it is good for us to give thanks to God. It is a remedy for anxious care and depression. It helps us to forget our trials and ministers to the spirit of hope and joy.

The best of all our blessings is a thankful heart and a contented mind. And it is the highest testimony we can give to others, especially when we present it to the world in the midst of trials and troubles to which others succumb. Our radiant faces, our thankful songs, our victorious praise will speak for God as no words could speak.

How shall we give thanks? "In every thing" and in every way; by habitual cheerfulness of expression, by the avoidance of every utterance of discontent or discouragement, by our joyful songs, by our radiant faces, and especially by our devoted lives. So let us keep the anniversary of our national Thanksgiving a whole year long, that everything in our life may say,

"Thanksgiving mercies, Lord, we sing;

Thanks-living lives, O Lord, we bring."



Think of That

A Thanksgiving Meditation

In many ways the third Psalm is one of the most pathetic ever to come from the lips of David. Yet out of his bitter experience, David finds a new realization of eternal values, a stronger trust in God, and a deeper gratitude for the blessings of God.

You remember the sad account of how David must flee from Absalom, his rebellious son. Tears stain his face as he fords the brook Kidron. His clothes are torn and the dust of humiliation is upon his head.

In such a time David finds three glorious truths for which to praise God. He marks them off for us by that little word, "Selah" which could be rendered "Think of that."

"No help in God." Think of that! (v. 21). David remembers a time when the people stood by him loyally, when his praise was on their lips. Now he tells us that former friends point mocking fingers and say, "There is no help for him in God!" Their taunt was much the same as that flung at Jesus many years later near the same place. "He trusted in God — let God help Him now."

Think for a moment at this Thanksgiving season how it would be were there no help in God! No salvation in Christ Jesus! No grace at the hand of God! No Holy Spirit, dwelling within, to strengthen and empower. No help in God!

Had David lost his faith in God? No! He contrasts the vain taunts of the people with the certainty of his own experience with God. When all human help is gone and friend has turned to foe, he finds in his God "a very present help in trouble." Nothing left except God, but as the song writer says, "Oh, then everything is mine in Jesus." What a theme for Thanksgiving praise!

When David realizes that there is help in God, he cries unto the Lord. "And he heard me out of his holy hill," (v. 4). Think of that! David had cried to God many times before. God had answered many times. But David never ceases to marvel. God hears his prayers! God answers his prayers! Each answer to prayer comes to him as a new and fresh discovery. How long has it been since we have been

brought to a present conviction that God not only answers prayer, but that He answers OUR prayer? It was this realization that changed David's outlook. It turned his mourning to praise, his complaining to thanksgiving.

Someone has said that an unhatched chick in its shell might imagine itself to know the entire universe. Upon hatching, however, it finds that the universe is much larger — there is a surprising new world. A similar experience will be ours as Christians when we discover, as David did, that God answers prayer. "He heard me out of his holy hill." Think of that! "Salvation belongeth unto the Lord. Thy blessing is upon thy people. Selah," (Psalm 3:8). Think of that! Many a saint has had to be reminded that the issues of life are in His hand, not ours — that nothing can touch His child save by His permission. Often in the hurry and hustle of life we become so occupied with present troubles that we lose sight of God's great blessings to us. We are so concerned with the cares of today that we are completely unaware that we have any real cause for thanksgiving.

Many great hymns of thanks have arisen out of deep trial and need. This was true for David. It was true for Paul and Silas in the jail at Philippi. For them the present perplexity merely served to magnify the ultimate glory.

The Thanksgiving season is especially blessed to the Christian because at this time, if at none other, like David we look beyond the care of the moment and see that God's blessing is upon His people. When we find ourselves in the place of discouragement and life seems to have turned against us, let us remember that even here God can bless us. His blessing is upon His people. Think of that!

—The Evangelical Beacon.



The First Presidential Thanksgiving Proclamation

By the President of the United States of America

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 to implore His protection and favor; and

Whereas, Both houses of Congress have, by their joint committee, requested me "To recommend to the people of the United States, a day of PUBLIC THANKSGIVING and PRAYER, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of Government for their safety and happiness.

Now, therefore, I do recommend and assign Thursday, the twenty-sixth day of November next, to be devoted by the people of these States, to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be: That we may then all unite in rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks for His kind care and protection of the people of this country previous to their becoming a nation; for the signal and manifold mercies, and the favorable interpositions of His providence in the course and conclusion of the late war; for the great degree of tranquillity, union, and plenty, which we have since enjoyed; for the peaceable and rational manner in which we have been enabled to establish Constitutions of Government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national one now lately instituted; for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed, and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and in general, for all the great and various favors which He hath been pleased to confer upon us.

And also, that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of nations, and beseech Him to pardon our national and other transgressions;

to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually; to render our national Government a blessing to all the people, by constantly being a government of wise, just, and Constitutional Laws, directly and faithfully obeyed; to protect and guide all sovereigns and nations (especially such as have shown kindness to us), and to bless them with good Government, peace, and concord; to promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the increase of a science among them and us; and generally to grant unto all mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as He alone knows to be best.

Given under my hand at the City of New York, the third day of October, in the year of our Lord, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty-Nine.

G. Washington.

Who Is Number One?

I have yet to meet an adult who did not claim that he or she had too much to do. We all complain of the pressures of life, the demands of modern day living, the tasks that require so much of our energy. Our week is full of undesirable, but necessary, routines of labor. By the week-end our veins are full of nothing but "tired blood." We awaken on Sunday morning with a conscience that says, "You ought to go to Sunday school this morning," and with a body that says, "Yes, but you're too tired."

Suddenly you realize that you are in the midst of a warfare; a warfare between the flesh and the spirit, right and wrong, God and Satan. The question is: What shall dominate my life — the flesh or the spirit? Shall I respond to the "want to" or to the "ought to?"

One has to decide; we cannot serve two masters. The choice lies between Jesus and His will, and self and its desires. Which has priority in your life? A man came to Jesus and said, "I will follow you, but first let me go bury my father." Jesus would not have second place and said, "Let the dead bury their dead."

How does Jesus rate with you?

Is it "me first, and if I have any time or money left I'll give it to Him"? Jesus said, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God.

Humbled and Exalted

The Maker of the Universe
As man, for man was made a curse:

The claims of law which He had made,

Unto the uttermost was paid.

His holy fingers made the bough
Which grew the thorns that crowned His brow.

The nails that pierced His hands
were mined

In secret places he designed.

He made the forest whence there
sprung

The tree on which His body
hung;

He died upon a cross of wood

Yet made the hill on which it
stood.

The sky that darkened o're His
head

By Him above the earth was
spread

The sun that hid from Him its
face

By His decree was poised in
place.

The spear which spilled His pre-
cious blood

Was tempered in the fires of
God.

The grave in which His form was
laid

Was hewn from rocks His hands
had made.

The throne on which He now ap-
pears

Was His from everlasting years.

But a new Glory crowns His brow
And every knee to Him shall
bow.

For this let us Bow our heads and
give thanks.

Attention

By the first of the year, all mail must have the proper address and Zip code No. Or they shall be returned undelivered. We as the Editorial Staff want you to have every issue and to do this if the address and Zip Code No. appear wrong on your label please send all corrections necessary and it will greatly help lighten our load.



Missionary Message

So You Wish to Become a Missionary!

1. Do I pick up 'the heavy end of the log,' or leave the drudgeries for others?

2. Do I take good care of other people's property, or would they rather not loan things to me?

3. Do I follow the Lord steadily, or is my 'call' constantly changing?

4. Am I the first to say, in a strained relationship, "I'm sorry," or do I wait for the other person to 'break' first?

5. Do I rejoice to see the Lord using someone else more than He seems to be using me or do I get jealous?

6. Do I find that I can admit adverse circumstances to the Lord, or do I murmur and complain?

7. Do I quietly endure the 'gracious uncertainty' of waiting for the Lord to provide, or do I have to have plenty on hand to keep peace of mind?

8. Do I see an opportunity in every difficulty, or do I see a difficulty in every opportunity?

9. Do I like to use my own money 'to keep things going,' or do I always wait for the other person to spend his money first?

10. When I start dealing with a soul do I stick at it until they come right through to victory, or do I drop them after a while?

11. Do I willingly accommodate myself to others, or do people get on my nerves?

12. Do I take the 'invasion' of my schedule graciously, or does it tend to spoil the whole day for me?

13. Am I really concerned for the welfare of the people I meet, or do I 'pass by on the other side' and avoid responsibility?

14. Am I going out as a missionary as a life work, to glorify the Lord, or am I hoping for some experience abroad to give a boost to my work here at home?

15. Am I neat and orderly in all that I do, or does some one have to

go around after me to clean up the mess?

16. In living the 'life of faith' do I expect to pay my full way, or do I expect discounts or favors from every one?

17. Do I look directly to the Lord to supply all my needs, or do I look again and again to someone the Lord may have used once to help me?

18. Am I as careful in the use of Mission funds as with my own, or do I feel that it doesn't matter?

19. When I arrive on the mission field am I able to praise the Lord for all the work my senior missionaries have accomplished, or do I feel that I arrived 'in the nick of time' to save the situation?

20. Am I daily pressing forward with my work, or simply coasting?
—Sel.

The True Missionary Motive

By Mrs Lura May Bustin

Why do we speak of missions?

Why do missionaries go
To far off lands and countries,
And people they don't know?
Why all the time and money,
And sacrifice of lives?
Why care we so for others
Beneath these star lit skies?

Well, here is the reason:

'Tis love — God's love within
The heart of any mortal,
That has been cleansed from sin.
When His great love is planted
In the heart, a passion comes
To go and help our neighbors,
Though in palaces or slums.

Jesus Christ is our example:

Twas Love that led Him down
To lift us fallen creatures.
He laid aside His crown,
He gave up all to help us:
Will we give all for Him,
To share His Love with others,
Whose lives are dark with sin?

How can we look at Jesus

In dark Gethsemane,
Or see Him on Mount Calvary.
In greatest agony!

How can we read His message
To go to all the world,
And preach His glorious gospel,
And not His flag unfurl.

Oh God, create within us
A greater love for Thee,
And greater love for others
Will come spontaneously
A love that moves to action:
A passion e'en unto death,
To carry on Thy missions,
And the lost and needy bless.

Yes, Master, breathe upon us
Until we're more like Thee,
Until we cannot linger,
But will work continually,
Pray for, give to, or hasten,
To help those who need our hand
That we all may live together
In heaven's happy land.

Meet Wapeya

By Miss Lenita Bustin

Formerly the richest, bravest and most wicked man of his area, Wapeya of Kauapena tells his story.

"As a young man I knew nothing about God. My thoughts were on fighting, pigs and acquiring wives. There were frequent wars in my area and I enjoyed going to battle. Before I went out I would always offer a pig, in sacrifice, to the spirits of my ancestors, for I felt they could impart their strength and courage to me. Often times while in battle I was severely hurt, but I credited my life to the sacrifices I had made. I had given them a pig, therefore the spirits were pleased with me.

The first time I saw a plane I thought it was something from the spirit world coming to devour me so I ran and hid. My life was filled with fear; I was afraid of the spirits, my enemies and death. I shook with fear when I saw my first white man for I was afraid he
(Continued on page 10)

Time's Immortal Cargo

It seems but a day since the decree of the Almighty and our mysterious birth seated us upon our Mother's knee; and as Time's old chariot drove out amid the scenes of a new world we cried, we laughed, we sang, we shouted, we played upon lawns, and were jolly and sad for a season. But the rustic, stern old chariot hurried us on away from mother, father, home and all. And Time's old chariot never, NEVER stops. It is faithful in carrying its immortal cargo to the eternal world. Wealth cannot stop it; vanity, pride or human greatness cannot obstruct or check its lightning speed. Sunshine, storm, prosperity, pestilence, famine, war and blood are but shadows upon its passing wheels. This old chariot is under the decree of the Almighty Sovereign of the Universe to carry all the nations of the earth to their final destiny in Heaven or Hell. Bankers, and beggars, cut-throats and saints, ministers and devils side by side in this universal chariot, are being swept down to the vortex of eternity.

Time! Time! TIME! Oh Frightful word thou art! Let all the orators of earth exhaust their powers to portray its stupendous meaning; yea, let all the angels employ their pens and tongues telling us of the fearful responsibilities associated with Time and they fall infinitely short, as Time is the hour when we put on Eternal character. If there is a palm of victory for you in Eternity it is won on the battlefield of Time; if there is a crown of Glory it's the price of Jesus' Blood on the desolate coast of Time. If for you there is a scream in hell; if there is a "worm that dieth not," and a "fire that cannot be quenched," it was kindled in Time by your own fingers to burn you in Eternity. Think of it! The few brief moments of Time write the Judgment book for or against us to doom us eternally. Time is the moment when immortal soul-suicide is committed, the destruction and loss of which cannot be estimated or understood in this life. Only ETERNITY in Hell will solve the problem. Then let us lay a sure Foundation in Time, as it MUST bear the weight of ETERNAL LIFE or ETERNAL WOE.

—Selected

National Thanksgiving

(Continued from page 1)

our strength. Joy is one of the fruits of the spirit. In fact, it is one of the main constituent elements of the kingdom of God. Paul said, "The kingdom of God is not meat and drink, but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost."

Let us note some Scriptures on the subject of joy or thanksgiving. In Neh. 8:10 we read, "The joy of the Lord is your strength."

"Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee." — Isa. 12:6.

"Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation." — Isa. 12:3. (Joy seems to be the windlass by which we let down the bucket into the well of salvation to receive a full supply of refreshing grace.)

"Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart." — Psalms. 32:11.

I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth." — Psalms. 34:1.

"Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name." — Psalms. 103:1.

We find in the Bible on one occasion that Jesus Himself rejoiced. While He bore the great burden of the sins of the world, yet it is said that at this time He looked up to heaven and rejoiced and thanked God that this truth was hidden from the wise and prudent and revealed unto the babes.

The Apostle Paul in one of his prison epistles, the letter to the Philippians, used about eight expressions of joy: He tells the Philippians to rejoice, "And again I say, Rejoice." The joyful thanksgiving with spiritual praise was the outstanding feature of early triumphant Christianity. The church of today for the most part has lost this note of thanksgiving. It will never be at its best in reaching a lost world until it regains this joyful note. There is a kind of worldly joy, but it is only temporary and transient; the least little calamity can suspend it and destroy it forever, but the joy of the Lord is something that the world cannot take away.

Let us in conclusion point out this passage of Scripture, "What shall I render unto the Lord for all

his benefits toward me?" — Psalms. 116:12. We have temporal blessings, social blessings, natural blessings, diplomatic blessings, and spiritual blessings. God has literally showered upon our pathway innumerable blessings, which are all free gratis. We have deserved or merited none of them; they are bestowed out of the unbounded fullness of God's rich grace. Now the Psalmist asks the question, "What shall I render unto the Lord for all these benefits?" The answer to this question is one of the most surprising verses in the whole Bible; instead of giving to God, instead of giving or trying to pay Him for these many blessings and benefits, the Psalmist says, "I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord." He gives by taking, renders by receiving, and repays by obligating himself more. It is an apparent contradiction, but the best way we can recompense the Lord for His goodness is to take more of His grace, to "take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord." The Psalmist adds, "I will pay my vows unto the Lord now in the presence of all his people." So let us all on Thanksgiving Day, wherever we may be, attend church and there render thanksgiving to God. But as Christians let us not stop at Thanksgiving Day, but all the days of the year give God the glory and honor due to His holy name.

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Sightlessness

(Continued from page 2)

and convictions, that God would no longer hear him, and he knew it. He desired now, to walk with God and in His light, but it was too late. There are many folk who are laughing and living but are beyond spiritual sight.

In conclusion, remember only a miracle can give us sight. Let those who have read this little article, yet, who have never turned to God, do so now while there is hope of seeing. You who once had a clear experience but are losing sight turn to God for help before it is impossible to do so.

Let Us Give Thanks

(Continued from page 3)

he has begun in the Christian. God does not abandon his work in an incomplete state. We are "confident . . . that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." "Grace will complete what grace begins." All our interests are safe in his hands. God is concerned in all that concerns his children. He will see to it that nothing pertaining to our full and final salvation shall fail of completion.

The work which his goodness began,

The arm of his strength will complete;

His promise is yea and Amen, great gain." If financial blessing has smiled upon him to the extent that he is blessed with plenty, he can enjoy his plenty better if he has Jesus, too, and will be more inclined, of course, to use it to the glory of God. If he has but little of earthly goods, he can get along much better with his little if he has Jesus, too, for he can sing with the poet, "I'm rich as can be when my Savior I see, I'm happy with Jesus alone."

The story is told by a missionary who had spent many years in a foreign land, of another missionary who always seemed to see the dark side of things, her limited income, the many things she had to do without that she once enjoyed, until she unconsciously developed a complaining disposition. Coming into her plain little room one day, she saw a beautiful motto hanging on her mirror with these words standing out, seemingly speaking

One day, however, I was angry with my men for they didn't accept some of my suggestions. I went to church and prayed, but only as a farce to get them angry. It was while I was pretending that I felt God talk to my heart and I really asked forgiveness of Him. I then went to my enemy tribes and asked their forgiveness. I slept in their village and tried to show them how sorry I was. I no longer make sacrifices to the spirits, I don't have to fear, for Jesus has taken those things out of my heart. I am now learning to read and write and best of all I'm learning more about Jesus. I'm glad the missionaries came with the story of Jesus."

The Experience of the New Birth

(Continued from page 12)

in them. They are incomprehensible and inexplicable, yet we accept them as real.

More often than not, when a man writes a question mark over what Christ says, it is a means of dodging the truth, rather than an honest attempt to discover it. If a man waited to understand the technique of radio, he would never listen to it. If a man refused to ride the airlines until he knew all about the motors and the pilot's procedures, the chances are he would never board an airplane. So it is with the new birth. It is something done for us and in us — not something one does for himself.

To be sure, it is a mystery how a man can be bound by sinful habits, wicked deeds, and vile affections for years, and then experience the new birth and be delivered from it all and begin to live a new life, a godly life. I cannot explain that, but I know it is a reality.

Friend, you can experience the new birth. Jesus said you could. You can experience in your heart and life this marvelous, mysterious change called the new birth, or being born again. There is a famous painting by Holman Hunt called "Christ, the light of the World." When the picture was first painted a critic called attention to the fact that there was no latch on the outside. Mr. Hunt an-

swered: "That's exactly as it should be. You see, the latch is on the inside of the heart, and you must open the door."

If you will open the door, Christ will come into your heart with the transforming power of the new birth. Repent of your sins, forsake them, surrender your life to Him, and you will know the marvel, miracle, and mystery of the new birth. Remember: "Ye must be born again."

Dawn

David B. Stewart

He meets me in the morning
In the fragrant hush of dawn
And unearthly is the stillness
As His face I look upon.

For there I see such beauty
As pen can never trace
And only they do know it
Who have seen Him face to face.

To think that once I feared Him
And would not let him in
This very Prince of Glory
Who died for all my sin.

But one day He came seeking
Upon the mountain bare
And found this sheep awandering
Afar from shepherd care.

For sin had wounded sorely
And I had wandered far
And thought no one could pardon
So deep was Satan's scar.

But then God's Spirit speaking
Revealed forgiving grace
As on the cross of Calvary
I saw Christ in my place.

How gladly did I welcome
The gift of love divine
How gladly did I praise Him
This glorious Saviour mine!

The heart that spurned His presence
Now longed to have Him near
And entered then the perfect love
That cast out every fear.

So now I love to meet Him
As breaks the dawn of day
That I might rest my spirit
Before the unknown way.

I leave myself within His hands
For what the new day brings
And going forth with Jesus
My heart forever sings.

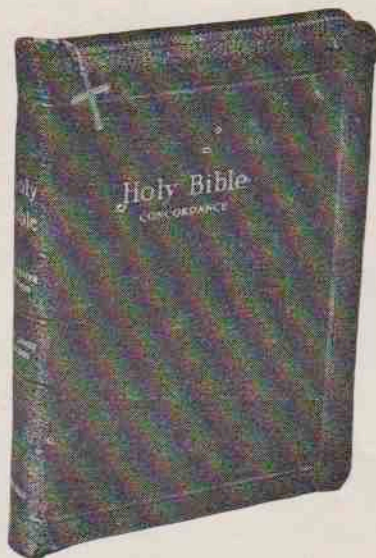
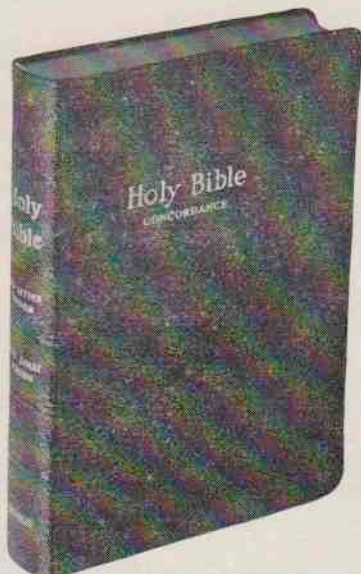
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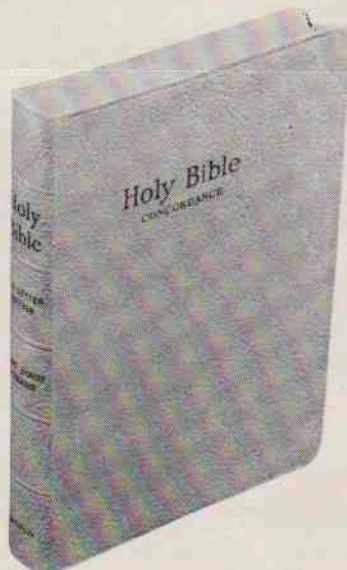
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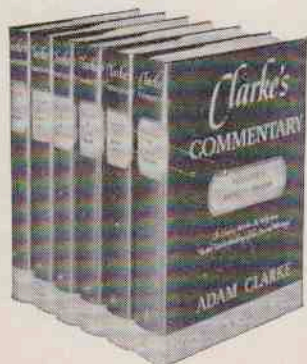
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The Experience of the New Birth

by Raymond Pollard

"GLORIOUS FREEDOM"

Radio Message for November 7, 1965

The third chapter of the Gospel according to John concerning the New birth is perhaps the most familiar in God's Word; yet it is often misunderstood and misinterpreted in our day. I realize that in this short message it would be impossible to clear up all these misunderstandings and misinterpretations. So for a while today, I want to look at the central truth contained in verse 7: "Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again."

In order to properly understand this scripture and the need for man to experience the new birth, we must notice something of the Biblical teaching concerning man.

Man is a fallen creature. He is by nature a child of wrath according to the Bible. Sin has contaminated him in every degree. Originally, man was made in the image and likeness of God. Man was created pure and holy — but through sin, he fell, and became an alien to God, a sinner both by nature and choice.

The Prophet Isaiah declares, "All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned every one to his own way." Going our own way is just what the Bible means by sin. Driven by sin away from God, mankind is ruled by his baser instincts. This state is what the Bible calls being "dead in trespasses and sin." Thus, we all need to be born again because we were born wrong, "dead . . . in sin."

The new birth, or being born again — born from above, born of the Spirit of God — is necessary to change our direction of living. We were going our own way, but the experience of the new birth sets us going God's way.

The new birth is necessary to restore our relationship with God. Sin separated us from God. Sin made us enemies of God. But the experience of the new birth changes our relationship to God, unites us with Him, and makes us His child.

There are some things we ought to note that are not the new birth.

The new birth is not making a

new resolution. It is not merely turning over a new leaf. Such an act and resolve is commendable, but it fails to deal adequately with a man's past life, which is sinful. Resolutions are good and noble, but they can never make a change in man's moral nature.

The new birth is not keeping the Ten Commandments. It would be unusual to find an unsaved person who kept the Ten Commandments. The truth is, no man can keep the commandments of God without first experiencing a radical transformation in his heart. Man needs the new birth to provide the inner moral power to keep them as God intended they be kept.

The new birth is not church membership. It is commendable to be regular in church attendance, and faithful to the scriptural demands of one's particular church. But the fact is that joining a church, paying tithes, and attending the services and ritual of the church are not what the Bible means by being "born again."

What, then, is the new birth? Jesus said the new birth is a MUST. "Ye must be born again." There is no alternative. There is no exception. If any man expects to enter into the kingdom of heaven, he must be "born again."

You can get to heaven without being rich. You can get to heaven without achieving popularity. You can get to heaven without ever having made the "Who's Who in America?" But you can never get to heaven without being born again!

If Jesus had only said, "Except you, Nicodemus, be born again," we might have had reason to write His words off as an irrelevant statement, with no general application. But Jesus used the generic term, "Except a man" — which implied any man, any place, any time "MUST be born again."

Some would have us believe that the new birth is required only of those who have no cultural respectability. But Jesus did not say, "Except a bad man." He said, "Except a man." Remember, these words were addressed to a very respectable man. Nicodemus was a Pharisee, a man of a strict sect of the Jews. He was a member and an official in it. In fact, in many churches he would have been considered desirable as a deacon. And yet, "Except a man be born

again, he cannot enter the kingdom of heaven."

Yes, for the morally good or bad, for the cultured or ignorant, for the high or low, for president or pauper, the new birth is a "must." Jesus said, "Ye must be born again."

Jesus also indicated the experience of the new birth was a miracle. "Marvel not that I say unto thee, Ye must be born again." The new birth is a marvel, because God does it. He works a miracle of transformation in the heart and life that causes one to forsake old habits, old desires, old sins, old companions, old pleasures, and causes him to adopt new desires, new companions and new affections.

The Prophet Ezekiel said, "A new heart will I give thee, and a new spirit will I put within thee." This is what God does in the new birth. He gives us a new heart, out of which comes a new life.

The Bible states again: "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature. Old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new," (II Cor. 5:17). In the new birth, God makes a man a "new creature," or a new creation. Old things pass away. The past — with its sin, guilt, heartaches, sorrow — is gone. God changes us inwardly and outwardly when we are "born again," so that we feel as one man did after experiencing the new birth, when he said, "I feel like a new man in a new world."

Finally, Jesus stated that the new birth is a mystery. Jesus said: "The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit," (John 3:8).

Then Nicodemus asked the question that men have been asking ever since: "How can these things be?" The most common objection to the new birth is this element of mystery. "How can I believe in something I cannot understand?" people ask. But in all of life there is the element of mystery. Who can explain which was first, the chicken or the egg? Who can prove a mother's love in a laboratory? Who can explain the miracle of physical life? All of these have the element of mystery

(Continued on page 10)