



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

November 21, 2021

P.O. Box 416
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Elders:

Kendall Bear
Dana Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Larry Brackett
Aaron Evans
Larry Hill
Steve McCreary

Minister:

Dale Barger

Service Times:

Sunday

Bible Study 10 am
Worship Service 10:45 am
Worship Service 6 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7 pm

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Thanksgiving or Turkey Day?

Is it “*Turkey Day*” or “*Thanksgiving*?” This question came to me a few days ago as I read an ad in the newspaper regarding the upcoming holiday. But I wonder if the renaming of Thanksgiving is not filled with cultural overtones.

Church attendance has been in decline for many years and the culture in which we live has seen a shift away from Christ. It is no wonder, then, that “*Christ*” would be removed from a day of honor in our society. “*Merry Christmas*” has been renamed to “*Happy Holidays*.” “*Turkey Day*” may indicate a further drift away from God. Traditionally Thanksgiving has been observed as a day in which the nation stops to thank God for all the blessings we Americans enjoy. Have we gotten so far from God that we fail to honor Him with thanksgiving?

Now let it be understood that the fourth Thursday in November is not a “*holy day*,” nor is it a day commanded in the Bible. It is a holiday set up by our leaders of the past to thank God for His blessings on the people of our great country. But modern day leaders have led us away from God as a national policy. Sadly we are fast becoming like the heathen nations described in **Romans 1:28** who “*did not like to retain God in their knowledge*” and even though they knew God does exist they “*did not glorify Him as God, nor were they thankful*” (21).

The parable of the rich fool (**Luke 12:16-21**) is about a man who took all the credit for all of his wealth and was unthankful to God who made it all possible. “**Turkey Day**” smells of the same rotten spirit.

May we make every day a day of thanksgiving to the God of all creation and to Jesus Christ our Lord for every blessing we enjoy comes from the Father and the Son.

Alton Norman
Owingsville church of Christ
Owingsville, KY

On Being Thankful

Thankfulness is an attitude of heart and mind that expresses itself in speech and action. Most of us have experienced ingratitude from another at some time in our lives, and such an experience is less than satisfying. Have you ever done something for someone, only to be received with little or no appreciation, or complete unconcern? Kind of makes it hard to want to rush to do another favor, doesn't it?

I often wonder how God feels at His creation's ingratitude. How many have felt God's sunshine, breathed God's air, been blessed with God's rain, and yet never stopped to think of – or thank – the Creator of all such? Many, I'm sure, never give a thought to God, though they are here by God's grace and live by God's favor. What ingrates we humans can be.

Even more, think about the greatest gift God has conferred upon man: the gift of His Son Jesus. Yet many go through life, day in and day out, without ever acknowledging this great gift. The Bible says, *“For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die: But God commendeth his love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us”* (**Romans 5:6-8**).

When we were undeserving, when we were yet enemies of God, the Father, in infinite love, gave His Son to die on our behalf. God's lovely and innocent Son paid a debt we owed, took upon Himself a penalty we deserved, and accepted punishment for transgressions we had committed. And this beneficent sacrifice was motivated by great, matchless, unbounded and unearned love from God toward us:

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life”
(**John 3:16**).

Not just this time of year, but at every season we should be always thankful, always grateful, always appreciative, to our great God.

John M. Brown
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