

The Inll Gospel Church

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Being Thankful

Thanksgiving is a day of remembrance by Americans of the first harvest by the Pilgrims in Massachusetts. Edward Winslow wrote on December 11, 1621:

Our Corne did proue well, & God be praysed, we had a good increase of Indian Corne, and our Barly indifferent good, but our Pease not worth the gathering, for we feared they were too late sowne, they came vp very well, and blossomed, but the Sunne parched them in the blossome; our harvest being gotten in, our Governour sent foure men on fowling, that so we might after a more speciall manner reioyce together, after we had gathered the fruit of our labors; they foure in one day killed as much fowle, as with a little helpe beside, served the Company almost a weeke, at which time amongst other Recreations, we exercised our Armes, many of the Indians coming amongst vs, and among the rest their greatest King Massasoyt, with some nintie men, whom for three dayes we entertained and feasted, and they went out and killed fiue Deere, which they brought to the Plantation and bestowed upon our Governour, and upon the Captaine, and others. And although it be not alwayes so plentifull, as it was at this time with vs, yet by the goodneses of God, we are so farre from want, that we often wish you partakers of our plenty.

Edward Winslow, Plymouth, in New England, this 11th of December, 1621. in <u>A RELATION OR Iournal of the beginning and proceedings of the English Plantation settled at Plimoth in NEW ENGLAND</u>, by certaine English Aduenturers both Merchants and others. LONDON, Printed for Iohn Bellamie, 1622. pp. 60-61.

When you read the above letter by Edward Winslow you see a man giving God a tremendous

amount of praise. Here was a group of Christians who suffered tremendous hardships during the first winter with 51 (50% of the original 102 pilgrims) deaths during the first year. Today there would be moaning and complaining but the pilgrims knew how to praise and give thanks to God regardless of the hardships. See:

 $\frac{http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Mayflower_passengers_who_died_in_the_winter_of_1620-1621$

As Christians we need to give praise to God no matter how hard and difficult our life appears to be. We need to realize that there is a purpose for everything that happens in our life though we do not and cannot see the purpose while we are going through the trial. We need to give God the praise anyway!

When the pilgrims set out aboard the Mayflower, they thought that they were heading toward Virginia. They did not expect to land in Cape Cod, Massachusetts where the winters are harsh and hard. We need to learn what the pilgrims already knew and praise the Lord at all times.

1 Thessalonians 5:18

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

The Apostle Paul taught us to give thanks in everything. As Christians we need to relearn this lesson since I hear many grumbling about how bad the times are and how rough of a time we are having. I do not think that we are having it as bad as the pilgrims had it during the winter of 1620-1621. Can you imagine losing 50% of your

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family, neighbors, and friends during one winter? Can you imagine setting up a community during snow storms and frigid cold? Imagine having to build your house during a snow storm and having to go out and hunt for food during a blizzard. This is what the pilgrims had to do, and they still gave thanks to the Lord!

When we are going through trials and tribulations we need to remember to thank the Lord for everything. We need to thank the Lord for the lessons that he is teaching us. We need to thank the Lord for the trial. We need to thank the Lord for everything.

King Solomon realized this when he wrote:

Ecclesiastes 3:1-22

- 1 To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:
- 2 A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;
- 3 A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;
- 4 A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
- 5 A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
- 6 A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;
- 7 A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
- 8 A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.
- 9 What profit hath he that worketh in that wherein he laboureth?
- 10 I have seen the travail, which God hath given to the sons of men to be exercised in it.
- 11 He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God

maketh from the beginning to the end.

- 12 I know that there is no good in them, but for a man to rejoice, and to do good in his life.
- 13 And also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labour, it is the gift of God.
- 14 I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him.
- 15 That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God requireth that which is past.
- 16 And moreover I saw under the sun the place of judgment, that wickedness was there; and the place of righteousness, that iniquity was there.
- 17 I said in mine heart, God shall judge the righteous and the wicked: for there is a time there for every purpose and for every work.
- 18 I said in mine heart concerning the estate of the sons of men, that God might manifest them, and that they might see that they themselves are beasts.
- 19 For that which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts; even one thing befalleth them: as the one dieth, so dieth the other; yea, they have all one breath; so that a man hath no preeminence above a beast: for all is vanity.
- 20 All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again.
- 21 Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth?
- 22 Wherefore I perceive that there is nothing better, than that a man should rejoice in his own works; for that is his portion: for who shall bring him to see what shall be after him?

We have all heard this chapter numerous times, but the message has not sunk in yet. We forget to be thankful during the good times and we curse God when we are having a bad time. We need to

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continually give thanks and praise to the Almighty no matter what. We need to be be thankful all of the time and remember who really is in charge. We are to be thankful when everything appears to be horrible and awful. When we praise God during the bad times, things have a way of improving. I have personally seen this happen on numerous occasions.

I Shall Not Be Moved

Words by: John Benson Jr.
Music by: Mrs. James A. Pate

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Jesus is my savior, I shall not be moved; In his love and favor, I shall not be moved, Just like a tree that's planted by the waters, Lord, I shall not be moved.

Chorus

I shall not be, I shall not be moved; I shall not be, I shall not be moved; Just like a tree that's planted by the waters, Lord, I shall not be moved.

In my Christ abiding, I shall not be moved; In his love I'm hiding, I shall not be moved, Just like a tree that's planted by the waters, Lord, I shall not be moved.

If I trust him ever, I shall not be moved; He will fail me never, I shall not be moved, Just like a tree that's planted by the waters, Lord, I shall not be moved.

On His word I'm feeding, I shall not be moved; He's the one that's leading, I shall not be moved, Just like a tree that's planted by the waters, Lord, I shall not be moved.

Jesus Christ is our Lord and He is the one who is in charge of our life. We are not the ones in charge of everything, or even in control of everything, Jesus has total control over everything. When we as a nation have chosen to live in sin and follow the devil, is it any wonder that we are in the

situation that we are in? Can't you see that we are in the straits that we are in since we have decided to rebel against the Lord Jesus Christ, rejecting him as our Lord and savior?

When a nation rejects the Lord, is it any wonder that the Lord will also reject them? We have rejected Jesus Christ as a nation and have chosen to follow and worship Satan! We are not thankful and we have slapped the Lord Jesus Christ in His face when He is the one who has given us all of the marvelous resources that we enjoy. We deserve the coming financial collapse along with the rise of the Antichrist. We deserve everything that is coming down the pike that has been prophesied in the Bible. When we wholesale murder living babies calling them partial birth abortions, we are no better than the Nazis!

Our only hope as a nation is to return to our puritan roots and praise the Lord for everything. In order for us to do this, we need to repent of all of our wickedness and sins. We need to reject the liberal teaching that we evolved from nothing and remember that we are a created being made by the Lord. Only when we start to believe the Bible as it is written, and repent of our sins, will we be able to rejoice and praise the Lord during the bad times. For only the true born-again saint can praise the Lord during hard trials and tribulations.

Won't you seek the Lord Jesus Christ today? Won't you repent and reject all of the wickedness that you have been taught is good? When our schools teach our children that murder is good, is it any wonder that the crime rate is on the rise? When we teach our children that an abortion is not murder, we are the same as the Nazis. We need to return to the religion of the pilgrims and learn how to be truly thankful for everything.

Jesus Christ is looking at you today wondering if you will have the guts and the nerve to seek His divine mercy and grace. Call upon Jesus Christ to-

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day and seek His will in your life. Jesus will hear and accept your repentance. Are you ready to reject all of your wicked teachings that the world has crammed down your throat? Are you ready to acknowledge that the United States has become a wicked and sin-filled-idolatrous nation that has chosen Satan over the Lord Jesus Christ?

Choose you this day whom you will serve. Choose Jesus Christ and life eternal, or choose Satan and hell fire damnation for all eternity. If you do nothing, you have already chosen Satan and hell as your eternal home. Make the choice while there still is time, for the time is expiring where you will still have a choice.

Make Jesus Christ your savior and even through the bad times you will have the ability to thank and praise the Lord just like the pilgrims did in 1621. Half of their population was already deceased, and they were still thanking the Lord for His beautiful mercy and grace. These people were

not complainers telling everyone who would listen how bad it is, but they were praising the Lord anyway! They knew how to be thankful just like we should know how to be thankful.

Are you ready for a trip where everything that is black and ugly will become beautiful over night? Jesus Christ will change your view of the world and will show you that it is not as bad as it seems to be. The situations will be the same, but your perception will be different. It happened to me and it can happen to you. When I first sought the Lord and became filled with the Holy Ghost, the black coal soot barracks in Germany looked a whole lot better the next day. They went from being ugly to looking beautiful. Flowers I never noticed were in bloom. Jesus wants to change how you view the world around you. He wants you to see it as he sees it. Then you will be praising and thanking him all the time.

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