

The Full Gospel Church

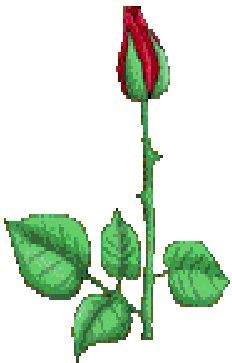
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Thanksgiving



"The First Thanksgiving at Plymouth"
By Jennie A. Brownscombe (1850-1936)
Painted 1914



Thanksgiving in 1621

In 1621 the Pilgrims were truly thankful for everything that the Lord had given them. Though the record shows that there was much hardship, ill health, sickness, and death, the Pilgrims still were thankful and gave thanks to the Lord. Whereas in today's society there would be complaining along with moaning and groaning about how hard and difficult life is. Today the governor, captain, and all of the leadership would be attacked for leading the Pilgrims on the retched journey to this accursed land.

The Pilgrims did nothing of the sort and gave thanks to Jesus Christ for all of the help that they received. Edward Winslow wrote in Mourt's Relation, "Our harvest being gotten in, our governour sent foure men on fowling, that so we might after a speciall manner rejoyce together, after we had gathered the fruits of our labours; 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 us, and amongst the rest their greatest king Massasoyt, with some ninetie men, whom for three dayes we entertained and feasted, and they went out and killed five Deere, which they brought to the Plantation and bestowed on our Governour, and upon the Captaine and others. And although it be not always so plentifull, as it was at this time with us, yet by the goodness of God, we are so farre from want, that we often wish you partakers of our plentie."¹



We need to remember our heritage as a nation and get back to the worship of God and give him the praise that he deserves. We need to remember that whatever state we are in that we still need to give thanks to God. The Apostle Paul told us, "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

America has forgotten how to pray, and give thanks for all things. We have become a reprobate nation concerned only with me, myself, and I!

1. Edward Winslow, Mourt's Relation, <http://www.pilgrimhall.org/1stthnks.htm>.

Philippians 4:1-13

1 Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved.

2 I beseech Euodias, and beseech Syntyche, that they be of the same mind in the Lord.

3 And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellowlabourers, whose names are in the book of life.

4 Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.

5 Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.

6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

9 Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

10 But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity.

11 Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.

12 I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

In Every Thing Give Thanks

Eastern Wild Turkey



While we sit and eat our Thanksgiving dinner, let us not forget the reason for the holiday. We are here to give thanks for all of the blessings that God has given us. We need to remember the Pilgrim Puritans who first came to this land to escape religious persecution in England.

The Pilgrims started their trek across the Atlantic Ocean with 102 people upon the Mayflower. By the time of the first Thanksgiving only 53 of the original 102 passengers were still alive.² These men and women were thankful for just being alive. With 48% of the original party having died, is it any wonder that the Pilgrims were thankful?

These newcomers to New England knew of hardship, trials, and death. Even with all of this, they were still thankful and did not blame God for their trials and tribulations. Whereas today many would be blaming God for their plight and troubles.

Romans 5:1-5

1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

3 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;

4 And patience, experience; and experience, hope:

5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

2 http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Mayflower_passengers_who_died_in_the_winter_of_1620_-_1621