

c. **16** In the wilderness He fed you manna which your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do good for you in the end.
// For the people in Moses day, *the LORD wanted them to see their own helplessness and trust in Him!*
That was best for them then and is best for us today!

5. **Do Not Deceive Yourself:** **17** Otherwise, you may say in your heart, ‘My power and the strength of my hand made me this wealth.’ // Again, pride leads to self trust AND rejection of the LORD! Think about what we need: food, clothes, shelter, forgiveness, friends, and happiness. If we THINK we can provide such things, then we THINK we don’t need God AND we actually have deceived ourselves!

6. **Remember and Give Thanks:** **18** But you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who is giving you power to make wealth, that He may confirm His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as *it is this day.* // **This is the proper attitude of a forgiven child of God:** I am a sinner; I deserve nothing good; therefore, *every good thing in my possession is a gift from God!* Now, realizing such things, *let us overflow with thanksgiving to God!*

Conclusion: Today, *in the midst of America’s THANKLESSNESS*, let us show what is good and right by remembering our blessings AND expressing our thanks! And all God’s people said: *Amen!*

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Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 7500 State Rd., Parma, Ohio 44134, 440-845-2230

Let us Remember AND Give Thanks!

Based on Deuteronomy 8:10-18 NAU

Thanksgiving Eve – 2011

November 23 → 7:00 p.m.

Next Sunday, 11/27 at 8:00 & 10:45, First Sunday in Advent

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ, long ago the leaders of our nation were *spiritually-minded* and *wisdom-filled*; so on November 1, 1777 – *when our nation was less than one-year old* – the Continental Congress recommended to the states to set apart a day of thanksgiving. This is part of what they wrote: *“Forasmuch as it is the indispensable duty of all men to adore the...providence of Almighty God; to acknowledge with gratitude their obligation to him for benefits received, and to implore such farther blessings as they stand in need of... It is therefore recommended to the...executive powers of these United States, to set apart Thursday, the 18th day of December next, for solemn thanksgiving and praise; that with one heart and one voice the good people may express the grateful feelings of their hearts, and consecrate themselves to the service of their divine benefactor...”*¹

Various proclamations *regarding the giving of thanks to God* have been made over the years. But how are we doing today? *Unfortunately the 21st Century* is similar to *Deuteronomy chapter 8* – the largeness of God’s blessings stand in contrast to the smallness of our thanksgiving.

¹ <http://www.wallbuilders.com/LIBissuesArticles.asp?id=3847>

1. **The Thank-Filled Response of God's People:** ¹⁰ "When you have eaten and are satisfied, you shall ble^ss the LORD your God for the good land which He has given you. // Similar to OT Israel, our land is God's gift; now, *through our land*, God abundantly provides our needs! We may not have all we want, *but God has provided all we need – even much more!* So how do we "ble^ss the LORD"? Martin Luther spelled-out the proper response: We should "thank and praise, serve and obey Him." (Apostles' Creed, First Article Explanation) We needed, *so He provided*; therefore, **we should respond with thanksgiving!** All who receive WITHOUT thanksgiving – *like in the days of Moses AND in the 21st Century – are being called to repent, remember, and give thanks!*

2. **Words of Warning:** ¹¹ "Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God [*How can we forget Him?*] by not keeping

a. His commandments [what He orders us to do – *for our own good*; see Deuteronomy 6:24] **and**

b. His ordinances [judgments, decisions – *let us know that what He decides is best*] **and**

c. His statutes [regulations, requirements – *always put in place for a good purpose*] which I am commanding you today; // When Christians are manipulated by the sinful world, they forget the LORD – *to follow what He said!* To forget the LORD is utter foolishness, *because it leads to eternal regret!*

3. **The Consequences of Not Keeping...:** Imagine the long amount of time *implied* in these words:

a. ¹² otherwise, when you have eaten and are satisfied, and have built good houses and lived *in them*, ¹³ and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and gold multiply, and all that you have multiplies, // All that *multiplication* takes time AND God's blessing; however, for many people, **as the blessings increase, so their ♦time with, ♦trust in, and ♦devotion to God decreases** ☹ ☹ ☹.

b. ¹⁴ then your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God who brought you out from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. //

i. Pride comes from thinking: "I did it!" Then such people *trust in* AND *thank* themselves!

ii. How does a Christian become a non-Christian? With one huge bold step away from God! **NO**; instead, it happens ♦slowly, ♦gradually, ♦in a stealth-like manner. In fact, *for many*, once the transition has taken place, even the person who has fallen away is unaware! If you are unsure, see 2 Corinthians 13:5.

4. **Think About the Past Blessings:**

a. ¹⁵ He led you through the great and terrible wilderness, *with its fiery serpents and scorpions* // He does not remove the great difficulties in our lives, BUT He leads us through them – *to gain our trust!*

b. ...and thirsty ground where there was no water; He brought water for you out of the rock of flint. // Flint is a very hard rock, yet God can bless and provide – *even when our circumstances SEEM impossible!*