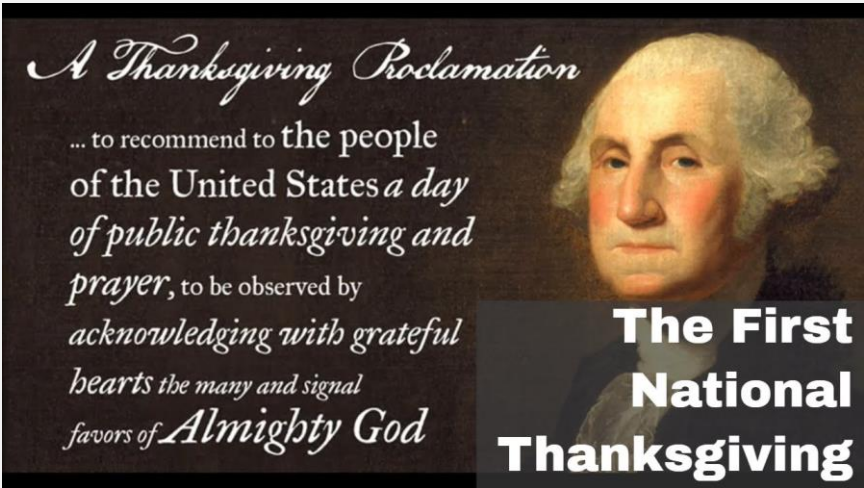


The Eve of our National Day of Thanksgiving – 2023

Wednesday, 11/22 at 7:00



Realize! Then Receive with Thanksgiving!

Text: NAS 1995

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: What is a PROPER Thanksgiving? ***GIVING THANKS to the Almighty God!***

1. **Martin Luther in 1529:** When beginning to explain: “Give us this day our daily bread,” he wrote: “God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to **realize** this and to **receive** our daily bread with thanksgiving.” // Think about the **8.1 billion** people in the world, or

the **334 million** people in the United States – *each one is living and eating*. How is that possible? Because the LORD keeps opening His hand and satisfying the desire of every living thing (Ps. 145:16). *Let us realize it and give Him thanks!*

2. **George Washington in 1789:** See part of his Thanksgiving Proclamation *in the image above...* Thanksgiving is **not** about eating turkey or watching football – *things that we might want to do*, **but** Thanksgiving Day was intended to be a day to **publicly and prayerfully** acknowledge the **countless and undeserved** blessings that the **Almighty God has showered upon us**. *Let us do such things and encourage others to do the same!*
3. **Today's Readings Encourage Proper Thanksgiving:**
 - a. **Deuteronomy 8:1-10:**
 - i. **² “You shall remember all the way which the LORD your God has led you...”** // The LORD did that for the Israelites then and for our nation today – *from sea to shining sea*. *Let us realize it and give Him thanks!*
 - ii. **⁴ “Your clothing did not wear out...”** // The LORD did that for the descendants of Israel during their 40 years in the wilderness. For us, *we have an abundance of all we need*. *Let us realize it and give Him thanks!*

- iii. ⁷ **“...the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land...”** // That was the Promised Land, *flowing with milk and honey*. The land of the USA is also a very good land. *Let us realize it and give Him thanks!*
- iv. ¹⁰ **“When you have eaten and are satisfied, you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land which He has given you.”** // We have eaten and been satisfied countless times! Even though we are tempted to forget the LORD, *Let us keep realizing what He is doing, then, let us keep giving Him thanks!*
- b. **Psalm 67: “Let the peoples praise you, O God... Let the nations be glad and sing for joy...”** // As one of *the most blessed nations in the world*, it is right and proper that we would be among *the most thankful nations in the world*. *Let us do our part to be thankful today and every day!*
- c. **1 Timothy 2:1-4: “I urge that entreaties [requests] and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men...”** // We, *as believers in Jesus*, have an open line to the Almighty God; therefore, let us talk with Him on behalf of others – *by making requests and giving thanks!*

- d. **Luke 17:11-19:** ¹⁵ “Now one of [the ten men who was cleansed of his leprosy], when he saw that he had been healed, turned back, glorifying God with a loud voice...” // What did he do? He realized that he had received a miraculous healing through Jesus; therefore, *he thanked and praised and glorified God!* Our illness was not leprosy, *but the incurable disease of sin*, which leads to death and hell. **BUT we have been healed by grace through faith in Jesus!** Therefore, let us realize what we have received – *eternal life*, and let us give thanks to the Almighty God!

Let Us Pray: LORD God Almighty, Your power is awesome, and Your love is amazing! Moment-by-moment, day-by-day, help us and many others to realize what You keep providing, and then move us with heartfelt gladness to keep giving You thanks!