

Thankfulness

By Tom Roy



Pilgrims pray before their 1620 voyage to the "New World."

WHAT DOES NOVEMBER MEAN TO YOU? Football? Change in the weather? Good food? Thanksgiving Day? November tends to be a time of thanks "giving" for many of us. As author Margaret Jensen says **"The secret to happiness is a thankful heart."**

Others throughout the centuries have had something to say about thankfulness:

"I thank God for my handicaps, for, through them, I have found myself, my work, and my God."
—Helen Keller

"Beggars that I am, I am even poor in thanks."
—William Shakespeare

"The man who forgets to be thankful has fallen asleep in life."
—Robert Louis Stevenson

"Sometimes our light goes out but is blown into flame by another human being. Each of us owes deepest thanks to those who have rekindled this light."
—Albert Schweitzer

"The Pilgrims made seven times more graves than huts. No Americans have been more impoverished than these who, nevertheless, set aside a day of thanksgiving."
—H.U. Westermayer

"Most human beings have an almost infinite capacity for taking things for granted."
—Aldous Huxley

"I thank my parents for letting me play baseball. I'm thankful I had baseball knuckles and couldn't become a dentist."
—Casey Stengel

But what does the Word of God say?

"Oh, that men would give thanks to the LORD for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men! For He satisfies the longing soul, and fills the hungry soul with goodness."
—Psalm 107:8-9

"Praise the LORD! Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever. Who can utter the mighty acts of the LORD? Who can declare all His praise?"
—Psalm 106:1-2

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."
—Philippians 4:6

"As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving."
—Colossians 2:6-7

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."
—1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

"The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."
—Job 1:21

"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God."
—Colossians 3:17

In a world where we tend to forget, please take time to do a recap of those things to be thankful for. Complaining, entitlement and worry can all work against being thankful.

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SCRIPTURE

"You turned my wailing into dancing; you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, that my heart may sing to you and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give you thanks forever."

—Psalm 30:11-12

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UPI is thankful for the privilege to represent Jesus, in the U.S. and around the world, through baseball.

Schedule

- Oct. 31-Nov. 8**Mickey** - Manila, Philippines
- Nov. 1**Tim** - Speaking at Bethlehem First Baptist Church, Bethlehem, GA
- Nov. 1-4**Tim** - Austin, TX
- Nov. 8-9**UPI board meeting in Warsaw**
- Nov.12-15**Hommel** – Monterrey, Mexico
- Nov. 16-23**Mickey** - Nicaragua

As you pray for our scheduled events (see above), please remember that each of our staff is involved in discipleship, Bible studies, leading chapels, visiting, writing, etc., throughout the entire year. Please pray for each of them.

Prayer... Praises

PRAYER

- International and Military trips and the details concerning each of these trips going out in the next several months
- Financial needs of the ministry
- Arizona and Atlanta off-season Bible studies
- UPI board meeting
- Future alumni event planning
- The upcoming men's retreat in AZ this January

PRAISE

- Thank you Lord for events that break and conform us to your image
- For several major and minor leaguers scheduled to take trips with us this off-season
- Opportunity to minister and serve alongside Baseball Chapel
- The ministry throughout the 2009 baseball season

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