

THANKS-LIVING

This is one week out of the year, when probably more than any other time, we as a nation stop and give thanks for the blessings we enjoy. We celebrate this feast as the early Pilgrims did to show appreciation for the bounty of good things we enjoy and often take for granted.

We realize that the country in which we live is not perfect. We must endure through crime, murder, poverty, and natural calamity. But amid these misfortunes we have much to be thankful for. For as most all Americans, we have food and have it in abundance. Our stomachs can attest to that. We stay cool in the summer, warm in the winter and do it by the mere flip of a switch. We are free to travel and do so in luxury and comfort in automobiles of beauty on a network of roads that are smooth and numerous.

These are just a few of the things we have come to use and appreciate in our lives. We should be all means stop and give thanks to the Giver of all things; the Giver of every good and perfect gift (Jas. 1:17). Those who are not thankful for these things either do not realize how good they have life or are so selfish that they appreciate only themselves. Such people are to be pitied. The example of the apostle Paul is "...to be content in whatever circumstances I am" (Phil. 4:11). But I am persuaded that as we cultivate our PSA (Positive Spiritual Attitude), we should not wait until a time of the year for Thanksgiving, but practice "thanks-living." Being thankful is a way of life, not an annual celebration. Each day that we have is one more day that God has blessed us with life, so that we may enjoy all of His wonderful blessings. By practicing "thanks-living" instead of "thanksgiving", we continually show our love and admiration for God which will in turn reap more gifts from His bountiful hand.

"Thanks-living" shows our appreciation for our health, the water we drink, the air we breathe, the food we eat, the homes we live in, and the clothes we wear. "Thanks-living" is being appreciative of parents, children, brothers, sisters, and other relatives. "Thanks-living" is being grateful for our friendships between neighbors, business associates, and schoolmates. "Thanks-living" is being able to share sorrows and griefs with those who suffer from such things. "Thanks-living" is knowing that the little things in life are more important than fame and fortune. The goodnight kiss, the simple "please and thank-you", a card sent to a sick friend, the showing of encouragement, and a smile that says it's worth it, is why we are thankful.

"Thanks-living" is knowing that God loves us, Christ died for us, and that we can have the forgiveness of sins, fellowship with God, the opportunity to know the will of God for our lives (the Bible), experience the comfort of God, and have the hope of eternal life.

As we sit down to our feast on Thursday, let us give our "thanksgiving" and begin "thanks-living."