

Pleasant Valley
Church of Christ

3317 Amidon
Wichita KS 67204
(316) 838-4195
www.letjesusleadus.org

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Classes 9:30 am
Worship 10:30 am
Evening 6:00 pm

Wednesday

Classes 7:30 pm

The Pleasant Valley Church of Christ is a non-denominational group of believers who are committed to following Jesus in our attitudes, our relationships, and our worship. If you want the same thing in your life, please contact us. We'd like to help.

Unless otherwise noted, all scripture quotations are from the New King James Version Bible, Thomas Nelson Publishers.

Wings



*"But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles" (Isaiah 40:31)*

November 18, 2007

Thanksgiving

by David King

"I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify Him with thanksgiving" (Psa. 69:30).

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God" (Phil. 4:6).

As our nation enters the traditional Thanksgiving holiday week, our thoughts turn to visits with family, turkey dinner, early Christmas sales at the stores, and Thursday afternoon football. Perhaps we can spend a moment to reflect on another aspect of the holiday: the spirit of thankfulness that it is intended to encourage.

Thanksgiving is a uniquely North American tradition (Canada has its own version, celebrated on the second Monday of October). In the U.S., the origins of the holiday can be traced to the first harvest by the Pilgrims at the first Plymouth settlement in 1621. In the early decades of the republic, various Presidents issued single Thanksgiving proclamations, but there was not an annual Thanksgiving holiday. Abraham Lincoln was the first President to declare Thanksgiving as a Federal holiday. The current date of the fourth Thursday in November was set by Congress in 1941.

In reviewing the history of this holiday, the one theme that dominates the story is the profound gratitude the observers had for God's blessings. Washington, for example, encouraged his fellow Americans to devote that special day "to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all

the good that was, that is, or that will be—That we may then all unite in rendering unto him our sincere and humble thanks—for his kind care and protection of the People of this Country." If America was not a "Christian nation," at least its leaders acknowledged the role of God in its founding and success.

Today, of course, the holiday remains, but the historical foundation is largely lost. The rise of secularism has removed much of the spiritual character from the day, and only the name remains to remind us of its real meaning.

However, at the risk of being misunderstood, let me suggest that the designation of a single day of thanksgiving may itself be a sign of an ungrateful spirit. Shouldn't we be thankful to God **every** day of the year? What does it say about our gratitude if we have to designate a special day to remind ourselves of it?

The fact is, thankfulness is much more than an annual ritual. It is a deeply embedded way of thinking that influences every word, every behavior, every decision, every day. A truly thankful heart never takes for granted any gift, however small. It always honors God as the source of all things. It is ever willing to repay by sharing its good fortune with others. It is not easily discouraged by setbacks or losses, choosing instead to focus on all the good things that yet remain.

This Thanksgiving Day, enjoy all the traditions that make the day so special. But remember that God does not bless us only one day a year; neither should our thanksgiving to Him be limited to a single day.