

View

Count Your Many Blessings

BY RON BYRD

Thanksgiving Day is a wonderful holiday, a day our Nation sets aside time for us to pause and reflect on the many blessings we enjoy in life. It is also a time to remember our Forefathers, the Pilgrims who came to this country in 1620, and then celebrated their first harvest the following year in the Autumn of 1621.

They were grateful for what they had been given and they set aside a time to thank their Creator for His many blessings and good gifts.



As Christians, we are continually reminded in the scriptures we read and in the songs we sing, of our need to remember God and

His goodness towards us. Psalms 92:1 tells us, "It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto His name." And Palms 50:14 reminds us to "Offer unto God thanksgiving..." The New Testament disciples were told in I Thess. 5:18, "In every thing give thanks." It should be a continual, ongoing attitude.

Why is it we have to be reminded so often to thank the Lord for the many gifts we receive from Him? Probably, because we are only human and we tend to take things for granted over a long period of time. We forget where our blessings come from and we neglect saying, "Thank You, Lord" as often as we should.

We are also reminded of our need to be thankful in the many songs we sing throughout the year. What a beautiful thought comes to mind as we sing "Count your many blessings, name them one by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord hath done." How true that is! Perhaps we should

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Services

Sunday Morning Assembly
9:30 AM

Sunday Evening: 5:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Study

7:30 PM

Classes for all ages.
Private classes arranged
at your convenience.

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Count Your Many Blessings, cont'd

spend a few minutes every day and just list some of the things we are thankful for in life. The Lord will appreciate it and we will surely feel good about it too.

One of the beautiful things about God's Word is that there are so many references to harvest time, to sowing and reaping, and to enjoying God's blessings. We are reminded that our life's work should be that of producing a harvest... of working in the fields and bringing others to the Lord.

The song, "Harvest Time," reminds us to "Arise, the Master calls for thee, the harvest days are here..." and it goes on to encourage us "a faithful reaper be." Matt. 9:37 tells us "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few." "Far and Near" tells us that now is the time "the sheaves to gather, ere the harvest time pass by." And, of course, there are many passages reminding us that, as we make decisions in our life, we will surely reap what we have sown. Gal. 6:7

The Autumn time of the year was when the Pilgrims rested from their labors and enjoyed what they had produced in the Spring and Summer months. We, of course, realize that life is short and we can never rest from our labors in the vineyard of the Lord. Our work is a work of joy, as the song, "Sing On," reminds us: "Sing on ye joyful pilgrims..." We work to do the Lord's work and we know He will reward us when the harvest eventually comes.

The early day Pilgrims set a good example for us all. They shared what they had with

others, those who had helped them be successful including their Indian friends and neighbors. They were thankful to God and they were generous and hospitable to others. They started a tradition of sharing... and caring... and being thankful. What wonderful values they gave us to carry on in our own lives, not on just a special day, but every day of the year.

So, when Thursday comes this week, let's take a few minutes and be mindful of what the Lord has done for each of us. Let's count our

blessings and name them one by one. Let's remember to share with others. Let's be mindful of those who have less than we do. Let's focus on what is important in life and become more determined to get our priorities straight every day we have to live.

As the leaves change color and harvest time brings us a bounty of good foods, let us enjoy the beauty of nature to

the fullest. God has given us the seasons of the year for our enjoyment. We live in a great country and we can be grateful for all that we have in life. We can also be grateful for the church and all that we hope to have in heaven, for ever and ever.

Happy Thanksgiving!

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Extra news and commentary...

BY DAVID POSEY

Idea for Sunday Night Sermons

One of our members came up with a great idea for our Sunday evening sermons (the 12-15 minute lessons prior to being dismissed to classes). She suggested that the church could submit questions that I will answer in that period.

Here's your opportunity to "stump the chump" (the chump being me). Seriously, it is an opportunity to resolve some questions that may come up during your daily Bible reading or interactions with others.

None of this is to suggest that I have all the answers, but I do have resources to find the answers.

Use the form below, or a reasonable facsimile, to submit your questions. If we get a lot of them, we'll take them in the order that I get them.

I may be able to deal with two or three in a sermon, depending on the level of detail required. Some may require two lessons to cover.

In any event, it is a profitable use of that time and solves a problem for me since choosing a subject for the short sermon is always difficult.

The only disclaimer, besides my own ignorance of some issues that some may want addressed, is that I'll only deal with questions that are likely to have significance to the majority of our members. If the question is very limited in scope, perhaps I can deal with that personally in a conversation or e-mail.

I'm looking forward to your questions. Ask away!

Seating issues

The elders and deacons (and the ushers, too) want to thank you for your cooperation in the attempt to seat everyone in the auditorium and limit seating in the overflow classrooms to times when we approach 300 or more in attendance.

We realize that this is an inconvenience, but we are always aware that the "worship experience" in the overflows rooms is not a positive one, for the most part.

We want everyone to be able to hear, sing and see the PowerPoint so they can worship effectively.

Special thanks to Dane Scott and the other deacons who have "taken the bull by the horns" to see that this is carried out each week.

I have a question...

My question is: _____

Text _____ Other comments/suggestions _____

If responding below, please list name _____ e-mail (optional) _____

I would be interested in a home Bible study during the week on the subject of _____

I would like to have a personal home study I would be willing to host a home study