



2016: Week 47

Sunday, November 20th 2016

“A Week of Thanksgiving”

Psalm 103:1–2

“¹ Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name. ² Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget none of His benefits.” (NASB).

This week we celebrate the national holiday known as Thanksgiving. Originally this unique day was established by the settlers of Plymouth Colony, MA in the early 1620’s (the folks we identify as “Pilgrims”) who thanked the Lord for allowing them to survive the harsh conditions of cold New England. The Lord sustained them, providing food for them at a time in which they feared a lack of food at the time of harvest. Over time, other regions in New England adopted this tradition of thanking the Lord for His blessings and provisions until President Abraham Lincoln declared the day a national holiday in 1863. Unfortunately today, it’s easy to forget the Lord and His provisions, and we make Thanksgiving Day all about ourselves: *our* time off from work, *our* traveling to visit with family, *our* special food recipes, *our* strategizing Black Friday shopping, *our* time to watch parades and football games on TV, etc. All these can be very good and fun traditions. Let’s make sure this week that we don’t forget the original intention behind the Thanksgiving holiday– a day to thank the Lord for His provisions. As those who have trusted in Christ, we of all people should set aside time to thank the Lord for who He is and what He has done for us!

READ Psalm 103

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READ 1 Thessalonians 5:16–24

List 15 things for which you are *thankful*:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.

FAMILY PRAYER: Dear Lord, I could write much more than 15 items for which I am thankful. Thank you for giving these things to me. Most importantly, thank You for giving Your Son for me! You have blessed me with many good things. May I find my rest and contentment in You today. Amen.