

**ERIC BUTTERWORTH  
PAPERS (3014)**

**BOX 10**

**FOLDER 32**

**THINKING GOOD IS**

**THANKING GOD**

**NOVEMBER 23, 1975**



-- THINKING GOOD IS THANKING GOD --

WHERE 'G' CAME FROM

Sun. Nov. 23, 1975

THIS COMING THURSDAY IS THANKSGIVING DAY, SET ASIDE BY PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION..A DAY FOR PERSONAL AND NATIONAL CONTEMPLATION OF THE BLESSINGS OF LIFE.

IN THE PLAY, 'TWIGGS', THE FEMALE LEAD IS PREPARING A THANKSGIVING DINNER FOR A LOAD OF VISITING RELATIVES, AND SIGHS, 'THIS HOLIDAY IS AN AWFUL LOT OF WORK...NO WONDER NO OTHER COUNTRY CELEBRATES IT.'

THE LINE GETS A HEARTY LAUGH...BUT, DESPITE THE WORK INVOLVED IN PREPARING THANKSGIVING FEASTS, THANKSGIVING IS PROBABLY THE 'PUREST' HOLIDAY OF THE ENTIRE YEAR'S BATTERY OF WORK INTERLUDES, MOST OF THEM ON MONDAYS TO EXTEND THE WEEK-ENDS.

WHEN I SAY 'PUREST', I MEAN THAT MOST OTHER HOLIDAYS HAVE BEEN PERVERTED BY MATERIALISTIC ENDS AND NATIONAL PRIDE OR ETHNIC VANITY...AND A GOOD FOR INSTANCE IS CHRISTMAS WHICH HAS DETERIORATED FROM A MEANINGFUL RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE TO A FRENZIED EXCHANGE OF NON-DURABLE GOODS.

THANKSGIVING ALONE HAS RETAINED ITS ORIGINAL CHARACTER. EXCEPT FOR A FEW TURKEY GROWERS AND CRANBERRY MERCHANTS, NOBODY IS DESPERATELY TRYING TO CAPITALIZE ON THIS HOLIDAY: EVEN POLITICIANS HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE SUCCESSFULLY TO EXPLOIT ITS THEME AS THEY HAVE EVERYTHING ELSE FROM ARBOR DAY TO THE 4TH OF JULY.

THANKSGIVING STILL BELONGS TO THE PEOPLE, TO THE FAMILY. OTHER HOLIDAYS TRUMPET OUR VICTORIES OR ACHIEVEMENTS, OR FLATTER OUR CONCEITS. EVEN MOTHER'S DAY BECOMES A COMPETITION IN EXHIBITIONISTIC SENTIMENTALITY...WHICH LOSES ITS MEANING



IT IS A PITY THAT OTHER COUNTRIES DO NOT CELEBRATE IT, FOR IT IS THE ONE UNIVERSAL HOLIDAY. IT PRAISES THE PROCESS OF CREATION AND THE MUNIFICENCE OF NATURE IN GIVING SO FREELY AND LAVISHLY WHAT WE TAKE FOR GRANTED ALL THE REST OF THE YEAR

IT IS A MARVELOUS REMINDER THAT MAN NEVER REALLY CREATES ANYTHING...HE SIMPLY TAKES FORCES GIVEN TO HIM AND PUTS THEM TOGETHER IN CREATIVE WAYS. THANKSGIVING IS A MARVELOUS TIME TO BE GRATEFUL FOR THE ~~XXXXXXXX~~ FLOW OF GOD MIND...AS IT COMES THROUGH US TODAY...AND THROUGH THE GENERATIONS OF THE PAST...THE FRUITS OF WHOSE LABOR WE ENJOY WITH ALMOST NO AWARENESS OF THE PAINS AND PERILS ATTENDING IT.

THIS UNAWARENESS, THIS UNCONSCIOUS INGRATITUDE, INCULCATES IN PEOPLE A DANGEROUS PRIDE, A HARDNESS OF HEART, AND A FALSE SENSE OF SELF-SUFFICIENCY THAT LEADS TO MUCH OF MAN'S INHUMANITY TO MAN.

THANKSGIVING, IN ITS OWN MODEST WAY, TRIES TO REMIND US...NOT JUST WHAT WE HAVE TO GIVE THANKS FOR, , BUT WHAT WE HAVE TO GIVE THANKS 'FROM'.

WE MAY VARY BY GREAT DEGREES IN THE LEVELS OF OUR STATE OR STATION IN LIFE...THUS THERE WOULD CERTAINLY BE A VARIATION IN REASONS THANKSGIVING IN TERMS OF GIVING THANKS 'FOR' THINGS...

BUT WE CAN ALWAYS GIVE THANKS 'FROM' THE REALITY AT THE ROOT OF OUR BEING...IN WHICH WE ALWAYS HAVE THE NON-MATERIAL MEANS TO FIND A LIFE OF HEALTH AND FULFILLMENT.

WITH A GRATEFUL HEART, ONE IS NEVER POOR...WITHOUT IT ONE IS NEVER RICH. ONE OF THE DANGERS OF



2A

THINKING GOOD IS THANKING GOD —  
WHERE DID "O" COME FROM?

\* HOW THANK GOD? CLICHE.

HOW FISH THANK WATER?

ECKHART: "NEVER THANK GOD - - -"

THANKS NOT FOR GOD - BUT FOR US.

PRAISE RAISES OUR CONSCIOUSNESS.

KEPLER: "THINKING THY THOUGHTS AFTER THEE"



HAVING TOO MUCH IN A MATERIAL SENSE IS THAT WE TEND TO LOSE SIGHT OF THE REAL RICHES OF LIFE... THUS WE ALLOW THE ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE TO ATROPHY.

A WOMAN CONSULTED HER DOCTOR DUE TO ACHES AND PAINS AND TENSION AND NERVOUSNESS. HE SAID, 'MY DEAR LADY, THEY ARE THE USUAL SYMPTOMS OF TOO MUCH COMFORT IN THE HOME AND TOO MUCH INGRATITUDE IN THE HEART.'

*O'3 How THANK GOD? How FIRST THANK WATER* ~~SCHEMPT~~  
THE OLD IDEA WAS 'COUNT YOUR MANY BLESSINGS... COUNT THEM O'ER AND O'ER'. BUT WHEN THOSE BLESSINGS ARE INADEQUATE... THERE IS A SUBTLE TENDENCY TO 'COUNT OUR ENVIES ONE-BY-ONE.'

IF YOU HAVE PANTS WITH PATCHES ON THE SEAT... THE OLD THOUGHT WOULD HAVE YOU GIVE THANKS TO GOD FOR THE PANTS, PATCHES AND ALL. BUT THIS WAS TIED IN WITH THE THEOLOGY OF THE GRACE OF POVERTY. 'I AM GRATEFUL FOR MY LITTLE NOW, FOR I WILL HAVE ABUNDANCE BY AND BY.'

*TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT IDEA*

SO I SAY, ~~DON'T MAKE THE MISTAKE~~ OF GIVING THANKS FOR YOUR WORN OUT AUTOMOBILE, YOUR LOW-PAYING JOB, YOUR PAIN-WRACKED PHYSICAL BODY. FOR THIS IS TO CENTER YOUR ATTENTION ON LIMITATION AS BEING YOUR LOT. MUCH AS YOU TRY TO BE POSITIVE ABOUT IT... YOU ARE REALLY NEGATIVE AT HEART.

LOOK CLOSELY AT JESUS BEHAVIOUR ON THAT OCCASION WHEN HE WAS FACED WITH 5000 HUNGRY PEOPLE. THEY DISCOVERED THAT HE HAD ONE BOY'S LUNCH OF GIVE LOAVES AND TWO FISH. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT HE THANKED GOD FOR THIS SUPPLY... BUT LOOK AGAIN.

'HE LIFTED UP HIS EYES AND GAVE THANKS'...'



HE LOOKED UP AWAY FROM THE SYMBOL OF LACK TO REALIZE THE ALLNESS OF GOD...AND HE GAVE THANKS NOT FOR THE MEAGRE LUNCH, BUT FROM THE LIMITLESS SUPPLY IN GOD.

THEN IN THIS CONSCIOUSNESS OF SUPPLY, THE DISCIPLES WERE TOLD TO DISTRIBUTE THE FOOD. AND THERE WAS ABUNDANCE.

ACTUALLY...WHAT HAPPENED HERE WAS A CHANGE OF THOUGHT. THE DISCIPLES BROUGHT A NEGATIVE REPORT OF LACK. JESUS GOT INTO A POSITIVE FRAME OF MIND BEFORE TAKING ACTION.

IT IS NOT A MATTER OF REJECTING THE PRESENT SUPPLY BUT IT IS SEEING THAT SUPPLY, NOT AS A ~~SYMBOL~~ <sup>EVIDENCE</sup> OF LACK, BUT AS A INDICATION OF ABUNDANCE FOR INSTANCE...IF YOU HAVE A NEED FOR MONEY. PERHAPS YOU HAVE A DOLLAR BILL - EVEN IF IT IS YOUR LAST ONE - TURN YOUR THOUGHT AWAY FROM THE 'I ONLY HAVE A DOLLAR' CONSCIOUSNESS...TO THE REALIZATION THAT THE DOLLAR REPRESENTS SUBSTANCE IN CURRENCY -- CENTER YOUR THOUGHT IN THAT CURRENCY OR 'FLOW'. FROM

THUS THE THANKSGIVING PRINCIPLE IS THE KEY TO POSITIVE THINKING. YOUR NEGATIVE THOUGHT IS CENTERED IN HOW BAD THINGS ARE. TURN AWAY FROM WHAT YOU HAVE NOT AND REALIZE WHAT YOU HAVE IN TERMS OF YOUR ACCESS TO THE UNIVERSAL FLOW. GIVE THANKS FROM THIS AWARENESS. SUDDENLY YOU ARE IN A POSITIVE FRAME OF MIND. THIS GOOD THOUGHT IS YOUR THANKSGIVING.

\* THANKS GIVING IN GOD "AT LAST"  
IN THIS POSITIVE STATE OF MIND IT IS AS IF THE SPIRIT CLAPS ITS HANDS WITH JOY BECAUSE WE ARE MAKING OURSELVES 'ORGANS OF ITS ACTIVITY'. LIKE THE PRODIGAL SON WHEN FATHER SAID 'LET US EAT DRINK AND BE MERRY... NOW ALIVE AGAIN'



THANKSGIVING DAY SHOULD BE A DAY DEVOTED TO POSITIVE THINKING...AND THE KIND OF STOCK-TAKING THAT CAN LEAD TO IT.

IF WE FIND THAT WE HAVE BEEN OVERLY CRITICAL OR FAULT-FINDING, WORRIED OR ANXIOUS, BITTER OR UNFORGIVING...EVEN IF THESE STATES CAN BE JUSTIFIED IN TERMS OF WHAT OTHERS HAVE DONE OR WHAT WE ARE DEALING WITH...OUR HEALTH OF MIND, BODY, AND AFFAIRS CANNOT AFFORD THE LUXURY OF THIS LEVEL OF THINKING.

LIFT UP YOUR EYES, GET SOME ALTITUDE IN YOUR THINKING, FOCUS ON THE INHERENT GOOD, GIVE WAY TO THE CREATIVE FLOW.

THINKING GOOD IS THANKING GOD. YOU SEE, THANKSGIVING IS NOT FOR GOD'S BENEFIT...FOR YOURS. IT IS A TIME TO DISIDENTIFY FROM PROBLEMS AND THE EMOTIONS CENTERING AROUND THEM...TO KNOW THAT YOU ARE NOT JUST A BUNDLE OF PROBLEMS...YOU ARE A PERSON, A SPIRITUAL BEING.

TURN FROM THE OUTER-CENTERED, EGO-CENTERED APPROACH TO LIFE. AT OUR RETREAT MEETING ONE OF THE LEADERS CAME UP WITH THIS FORMULA: THANKSGIVING MINUS EGO EQUALS FLOW. T - E EQUALS F.

GET YOUR BLOATED NOTHINGNESS OUT OF THE WAY AND LIE LOW IN THE DIVINE CIRCUITS.

IN HUMAN RELATIONS THERE IS ALWAYS A POINT OF GOODNESS IN EVERY PERSON. THIS SHOULD BE THE STARTING POINT. 'MAGNIFY THE LORD'. THE 'LORD' IS THE CREATIVE FLOW.

TO 'MAGNIFY' MEANS TO 'MAKE GREAT OR GREATER'. GRATITUDE MAKES US GREAT, INCREASES OUR SELF-WORTH, EXPANDS OUR ABILITY TO SEE THE GOOD IN PEOPLE AND SITUATIONS, THUS TO EXTRACT THE BEST FROM LIFE.



CAN'T SEE CHRIST EXCEPT FROM

WE TALK ABOUT 'BEHOLDING THE CHRIST' IN PEOPLE, OR 'SALUTING THE DIVINITY' IN THEM. THIS IS POSITIVE THINKING...SEEING FROM THE HIGHEST POINT OF VIEW.

THIS IS SEEING 'FROM' THE AWARENESS OF ALLNESS.. THUS SEEING THROUGH 'SPIRIT COLORED GLASSES'. IT IS A KIND OF THINKING GOOD THAT IS THANKING GOD.

\* RECALL THAT THE HEBREW AND SANSKRIT WORD FOR EYE IS 'AYIN', MEANING 'FOUNTAIN'.  
'BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART FOR THEY SHALL SEE GOD.' YOU SEE FROM GOD-CONSCIOUSNESS -- AND...YOU ACTUALLY PROJECT A FLOW OF GOOD.

THIS INTRODUCES A NEW MEANING FOR THANKSGIVING DAY. NOT JUST A PASSIVE RESPONSE TO THINGS AS THEY ARE...GIVING THANKS FOR BLESSINGS. THAT IS GOOD. BUT THERE IS SO MUCH MORE.

\* IT IS, OR CAN BE, AN ACTIVE PROJECTION OF GOOD THROUGH SEEING TRANSCENDENTALLY. A GOOD TIME TO TAKE A THANKSGIVING WALK, EVEN IF IN IMAGINATION, AND PROJECT A POSITIVE BLESSING TO PEOPLE CONDITIONS, AND THINGS. \* NOT THANKFUL FOR

THE HEBREW WORD FOR THANKSGIVING IS 'YAW-DAW', WHICH LITERALLY MEANS A STRETCHING FORTH OF OPEN HANDS. THUS THE 'GIVING' IN RELATIONSHIP TO GOD, IS A LETTING, A STEPPING BACK...A TIME OF 'THANKS-LETTING.'

IN CONSCIOUSNESS, STRETCH FORTH YOUR HANDS IN A GIVING SPIRIT TO ALL THE WORLD. YOU WILL THINK POSITIVE THOUGHTS OF PEACE, LOVE, HARMONY, ETC. AND THIS THINKING GOOD IS THANKING GOD.



\* OUT OF THIS EXPERIENCE OF 'SEEING THE GOOD' CAN COME THE BEAUTIFUL AND HUMBLE EXPERIENCE OF CELEBRATING THE GOOD. FOR YOU WILL SEE MUCH THAT IS BEAUTIFUL, MUCH THAT IS AFFLUENT, MUCH THAT IS GRANDLY SUCCESSFUL.

THIS SHOULD LEAD TO GRATITUDE THAT YOU WERE BORN WITH EYES TO SEE AND EARS TO HEAR AND SENSES TO APPRECIATE THE BEAUTY AND ABUNDANCE OF NATURE.

LOOKING ~~AT~~ A SUNRISE I ALWAYS RECALL THE INSPIRING CONCLUSION OF THE INSPIRING PLAY OF ROSTAND, 'THE CHANTICLEER'... THAT HUMBLE BIRD WHO THOUGHT THAT IT WAS BECAUSE OF HIS CROWING IN THE MORNING THAT THE SUN ROSE.

MORNING AFTERMORNING HE GOT UP EARLY AND CROWED... AND INDEED THE SUN DID RISE! BUT ONE DAY HE OVERSLEPT, AND WHEN HE AROSE HE FOUND THE SUN HAD RISEN AND HE HAD NOT CROWED.

IT WAS A GREAT DISILLUSIONMENT AND BLOW TO HIS EGO...AND LED TO FEELINGS OF SELF-DOUBT AND INSUFFICIENCY. HOW INEFFECTIVE HIS LIFE WAS! THEN...HE HAD A GREAT THOUGHT: 'IT MAY BE THAT IT IS NOT MY POOR VOICE THAT BRINGS ON THE DAY: BUT THIS AT LEAST I CAN DO, AND NOTHING CAN DEPRIVE ME OF THE JOY OF IT: IF I MAY NOT CAUSE THE SUN TO RISE, I MAY LIFT UP MY VOICE AND CELEBRATE ITS RISING.'

THIS IS AN IMPORTANT KEY NOTE OF THANKSGIVING. SOME PEOPLE MAY DO GREAT THINGS AND HAVE MUCH IN THE WAY OF HEALTH AND POSSESSIONS...AND THUS SEEMINGLY HAVE MUCH REASON FOR THANKSGIVING.

BUT EVEN IF WE DO NOT HAVE MUCH... WE CAN REJOICE IN WHAT OTHERS HAVE OR WHAT THEY CAN DO...WE CAN CELEBRATE THE FLOW....



PERHAPS THAT IS WHAT TRUE AFFLUENCE IS...NOT JUST THE FREE FLOW OF SUBSTANCE INTO OUR LIFE OR OUR COFFERS...BUT THE ABILITY TO CELEBRATE ALL THE ABUNDANCE IN THE UNIVERSE.

JESUS WENT FORTH WITHOUT SCRIPT OR PURSE, BUT HE MOVED FREELY IN ALLNESS, THUS HE WAS RICH.

THIS IS HAVING IT WITHOUT BEING POSSESSED BY IT.

\* I LOVE THE ATTITUDE EXPRESSED BY A SUPPORTER OF OUR RADIO WORK WHO SENDS AN OCCASIONAL GIFTS WITH THE CRYPTIC NOTE, 'HERE IS A ~~SMALL~~ PIECE OF THE UNIVERSE.'

IT COMES FROM THE CONSCIOUSNESS THAT I LIVE IN THE UNIVERSE AND IT LIVES IN ME...THEREFORE IT IS MINE TO USE AND ENJOY.

HOW GOOD TO KNOW THAT THE ART GALLERIES AND LIBRARIES ARE MINE TO ENJOY. THE SUNSETS AND SUNRISSES AND MOONLIT NIGHTS ARE MINE TO CELEBRATE. HOW RICH ONE CAN FEEL....AND THAT FEELING OF RICHES IS THE KEY TO OPENING THE WAY TO THE FLOW.

THIS KIND OF ATTITUDE WOULD LEAD TO RESPECT FOR PROPERTY, AND HEALTHY-MINDED RESPECT FOR PEOPLE, ALL PEOPLE, RICH AND POOR, GOOD AND SO-CALLED EVIL. MOST OF ALL IT WOULD LEAD TO A HEALTHY SELF-RESPECT AND FEELING OF SELF-WORTH.

IT IS ALSO AN ATTITUDE THAT CAN BE MOST HELPFUL IN DEALING WITH OUR CONCERNS FOR PEOPLE. ONE WOMAN HAD AN ONLY SON WHO WAS INVOLVED IN DRUGS. FOR MONTHS SHE HAD PRAYED IN AGONY OF SOUL, 'O GOD, SAVE MY BOY FROM DESTRUCTION AND SIN.'

BUT HOW COULD GOD HEAR THAT KIND OF PRAYER ANY MORE THAN THE SUN COULD UNDERSTAND THE PRAYER OF



NOTE...SHE DISCOVERED THAT THE NEED WAS NOT...  
TO PRAY TO GOD...BUT TO PRAY FROM THE CONSCIOUS-  
NESS OF GOD. NOT TO ASK GOD FOR HELP...BUT TO  
PROJECT THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF GOD IN A PRAYER  
OF AFFIRMATION.

AND...AS SHE PRAISED THE SON...SHE RAISED HER  
CONSCIOUSNESS ABOUT HIM...WHICH IS THE VIBRATIONS  
THAT HE FELT AND RESPONDED TO. THE HELP WAS  
WITHIN HIM ALL THE TIME...BUT IT BEGAN TO  
FLOW FORTH WHEN THE MOTHER BEGAN SINCERELY TO  
CELEBRATE IT.

WE CHALLENGE YOU TO MAKE THIS THANKSGIVING DAY  
A DAY OF CELEBRATION. CELEBRATE THE AFFLUENCE  
OF THE UNIVERSE AND THE FREE FLOW OF SUBSTANCE  
AND LIFE AND INTELLIGENCE IN YOU.

RESOLVE ON THIS DAY TO RAISE YOUR THOUGHTS TO  
THE HIGHEST POSITIVE LEVEL ABOUT PEOPLE AND  
THINGS...KNOWING THAT THINKING GOOD IS THANKING  
GOD.

TAKE A THANKSGIVING WALK IN THE SPIRIT OF 'YAWDAW'  
STRETCHING FORTH THE HANDS  
IN THE SPIRIT OF GIVING.