

**ERIC BUTTERWORTH
PAPERS (3014)**

**BOX 17
FOLDER 28**

**A THANKSGIVING
CELEBRATION**

NOVEMBER 22, 1981

ORG. LARRY KIMBELL
SOLAAR- RAY MCLEOD

A THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION

2 Nov. 23/94

TODAY IS THE TRADITIONAL THANKSGIVING SUNDAY. IT IS NOT THE DAY OF THANKSGIVING, THAT COMES ON THURSDAY. ON THIS DAY WE ARE NOT CELEBRATING THANKSGIVING RATHER, WE ARE CELEBRATING THE IDEA OF THE ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE.

^{LY}ACTUAL^{LY} HAVING ONE DAY OF THANKSGIVING IS VERY CONVENIENT. YOU MAY HAVE ~~A~~ TOTAL LACK OF THANKFULNESS, A PERPETUAL ATTITUDE OF ~~IN~~ INGRATITUDE. BUT ON ONE DAY OF ~~THE~~ YEAR YOU SPEND THE DAY GIVING THANKS ~~TO~~ GOD FOR YOUR BLESSINGS, AND JUST GENERALLY FEELING GREATEFUL FOR THINGS ~~AND~~ RELATIONSHIPS.

THEN WHEN ~~THE~~ DAY IS OVER YOU GO BACK TO WORK... AND BACK TO THE PRACTICE OF COMMISERATING OVER THE ~~RA~~VAGES OF INFLATION, CRIME IN THE CITY, AND ALL YOUR MANY PERSONAL PROBLEMS OF ILLNESS AND CONFLICTS WITH PEOPLE."

"PRAISE GOD ON SUNDAY -"

my duty to trouble

WAY NOT ONE DAY OF GRIPING?
A WHOLE YEAR OF THANKSGIVING?

YOU KNOW, THE BIBLE DOES NOT CALL FOR A SPECIAL DAY OF THANKSGIVING. WE ARE TOLD: "IN EVERYTHING GIVE THANKS." IN OTHER WORDS THE GOAL IS TO LIVE ~~IN A~~ PERPETUAL CONSCIOUSNESS OF THANKFULNESS... AND THAT IS NOT EASY. SO TODAY, WE WANT TO THINK ABOUT THAT... ITS ~~ADVANTAGES~~... AND TECHNIQUES FOR ITS ACHIEVEMENT.

FIRST OF ALL, LETS BE CLEAR ON PAUL'S WORDS. HE SAYS "IN ALL THINGS GIVE THANKS" -- NOT "FOR ALL THINGS" IN OTHER WORDS HE IS NOT SAYING YOU MUST BE GRATEFUL FOR THE DIFFICULTIES OF YOUR LIFE... YOU NEED TO KEEP ~~Y~~ YOURSELF IN THE FLOW OF GOD BY AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE.

YOU SEE... THANKSGIVING IS NOT A REACTIONARY
EMOTION, BUT A CAUSATIVE FORCE. IT IS ~~AN~~ ~~A~~ ATTITUDE
THAT LIFTS US TO THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF CONSCIOUSNESS,
WHICH ~~ENABLES~~ ~~US~~ TO EXPERIENCE THE HIGHEST KIND OF
LIFE.

ACTUALLY, PLATO HAD THIS AMAZING INSIGHT 2500 YRS.
AGO. HE SAID: "A GRATEFUL MIND IS A GREAT MIND WHICH"
EVENTUALLY ATTRACTS TO ITSELF GREAT THINGS."

THE GRATEFUL PERSON IS GREAT BECAUSE HE HAS TURNED
ON THE LIGHTS IN HIMSELF. AND HE DOESN'T HAVE TO
~~HAVE~~ ~~THE~~ THINGS TO GIVE THANKS FOR. BUT WHEN HE
KEEPS HIMSELF CENTERED IN GRATITUDE, HE RADIATES
A SPECIAL LIGHT WHICH ~~CHANGES~~ UNCOVERS A WONDERFUL WORLD
FOR WHICH HE CAN GIVE THANKS.

I OVERHEARD SOMEONE RECENTLY BLURTING OUT: "WHAT
A TERRIBLE WORLD THIS IS" AND I FELT LIKE SAYING:
'COMPARED TO WHAT?'

IT IS A CHANGING WORLD... BUT THUS IT HAS ALWAYS
BEEN. GROWTH CAN ONLY COME THROUGH CHANGE. THINGS
CAN'T REMAIN THE SAME. SO GIVE THANKS FOR CHANGE.
"GIVE THANKS FOR HILLS AND THE STRENGTH TO
CLIMB UP."

THE MOST UNFORGETTABLE PEOPLE ARE THOSE WHO HAVE
A CONSCIOUSNESS THAT SEEMS SOMEHOW TO PROJECT
THE FEELING: "WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD THIS IS"

I REMEMBER JUST SUCH A PERSON FROM MY EXPERIENCE
WORKING IN A BAKERY WHILE IN COLLEGE (WORKING MY
OWN WAY... SCHOOL BY DAY, WORK BY NIGHT)

MY VERY DIFFICULT LOAD WAS CERTAINLY MADE THE EASIER, AND THE ALL-NIGHT WORK SHIFT WAS EVEN SOMETHING I LOOKED FORWARD TO EVERY DAY, BECAUSE I WORKED WITH ONE OF THE HAPPIEST, FRIENDLIEST, LOVINGEST PERSONS I HAVE EVER KNOWN.

HE WAS CALLED "TUBBY" (I NEVER KNEW HIS REAL NAME) AND HE WASN'T EVEN FAT -- SLIGHT LITTLE FELLOW.

"TUBBY" CAME FROM HIS JOB OF WHEELING AROUND LARGE TUBS OF DOUGH.

HE WAS ALWAYS LAUGHING, CLOWNING, JOKING -- A POSITIVE CATALYST FOR THE WHOLE NIGHT-SHIFT IN THE BAKERY.

A BRIGHT SPOT IN A MONOTONOUS ASSEMBLY-LINE JOB.

ONE NIGHT TUBBY WAS NOT AT WORK -- THE PLACE WAS LIKE A MORGUE. NEXT NIGHT NOT THERE... THEN TUBBY WAS BACK -- THE PLACE LIT UP. I DISCOVERED FROM ANOTHER WORKER THAT TUBBY WAS TAKING HIS INVALID WIFE FOR SOME HOSPITAL TESTS IN ANOTHER TOWN. HE HAD FULL CARE OF HIS FOUR YOUNG CHILDREN -- AND A WIFE WHO NEEDED COMPLETE CARE -- HEAVILY IN DEBT FOR DOCT'S, NURSES, HOSPITALS ETC.

ONCE IN A SERIOUS TALK WITH THIS BEAUTIFUL MAN HE SAID, "YOU KNOW, PEOPLE OFTEN ASK ME IF I AM NOT RESENTFUL, OR FEEL SORRY FOR MYSELF... SHOOT, I AM NOT SAINT, AND THERE ARE TIMES WHEN I GET DOWN. BUT I BOUNCE RIGHT UP WHEN I REMEMBER HOW FORTUNATE I AM TO HAVE SUCH A WONDERFUL WIFE, AND SUCH FINE CHILDREN... AND FOR A STRONG BODY AND A GOOD JOB, AND THE CHANCE TO WORK WITH GREAT GUYS LIKE YOU" -- AND QUICKLY HE WAS BACK CLOWNING. I WILL NEVER FORGET TUBBY.

CONTRASTING THE STORY OF TUBBY IS THE WOMAN WHO WAS ALWAYS COMPLAINING ABOUT HER TROUBLES. A FRIEND TRIED TO CHEER HER UP, SAYING "OH COME ON, THINGS ARE NOT ALL THAT BAD. WHY NOT LOOK FOR THE GOOD?" THE WOMAN REPLIED, "OH, THAT IS ALL RIGHT FOR SOME PERSONS: BUT IT SEEMS TO ME WHEN THE LORD SENDS ME TRIBULATIONS, IT IS MY DUTY TO TRIBULATE"

AS I OFTEN SAY, WE ALWAYS HAVE A CHOICE - NO MATTER WHAT LOOMS BEFORE US OR WHAT LIES BEHIND US, OR EVEN WHAT IS PRESENT AROUND US. WE CAN THINK GREAT THOUGHTS OR SMALL THOUGHTS. AND HOW WE THINK DETERMINES WHAT THINGS BECOME AS FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED. IT ALSO DETERMINES WHAT WE BECOME: GREAT OR SMALL.

THE THANKFUL PERSON IS A GREAT PERSON. WITHOUT THIS CONSCIOUSNESS WE BECOME LITTLE PEOPLE, WITH LITTLE MINDS, LEADING LITTLE, INCONSEQUENTIAL LIVES.

JESUS DID NOT ACHIEVE HIS POWER OF GREATNESS BY OCCASIONAL ATTEMPTS TO "PERFORM" MIRACLES. FACED WITH AN IMPOSSIBLE DILEMMA HE INVARIABLY "LIFTED UP HIS EYES ~~AND GAVE THANKS~~ AND GAVE THANKS." THIS WAS NO SPONTANEOUS EMOTIONAL REACTION. IT WAS THE PROJECTION OF A CAUSATIVE FORCE... THE FRUITS OF YEARS OF PRACTICE. MYSTIC = LIFTING EYES

SO WHEN JESUS WAS CONFRONTED WITH THE TASK OF FEEDING THE HUNGRY THROG OF ~~XXXX~~ 5,000 people. HE LIFTED UP HIS EYES AND GAVE THANKS. THEN HE PROCEEDED TO FEED THE PEOPLE WITH WHAT WAS AVAILABLE

IT WAS NOT A THANKS FOR THE GOOD ON THE TABLE, FOR THERE WAS ONLY A FEW LOAVES AND FISHES. IT WAS A POWERFUL TECHNIQUE BY WHICH JESUS ATTUNED HIMSELF TO THE KINGDOM POSSIBILITIES IN THE GREATNESS OF GOD WITHIN HIM. BY THAT ATTITUDE HE BECAME GREAT, AND OF COURSE HE DID GREAT THINGS. GREAT ACTS FOLLOW GREAT THOUGHTS THAT COME FROM A GRATEFUL HEART.

ON ANOTHER OCCASION JESUS CAME HURREIDLY TO BETHANY TO MEET WITH THE SORROWING FAMILY OF HIS FRIEND, WHO HAD DIED. THE SISTERS REPROACHED JESUS, "IF YOU HAD BEEN HERE OUR BROTHER WOULD NOT HAVE DIED." JESUS WENT TO THE TOMB WHERE HIS FRIEND HAD BEEN INTERRED FOR FOUR DAYS. HE HAD THEM ROLL AWAY THE STONE. THEN HE LIFTED UP HIS EYES AND SAID, "FATHER I THANK YOU THAT YOU HEAR ME" *Oh how* IMAGINE PEOPLE THINKING, "THANKSGIVING! WHAT IS THERE TO BE THANKFUL FOR? LAZARUS IS DEAD! THE MAN HAD BETTER WAIT AND SEE IF HE CAN REALLY DO ANYTHING BEFORE HE GIVES THANKS!"

BUT AGAIN...THE THANKS WAS NOT A REACTIONARY EMOTION...BUT A CAUSATIVE FORCE.

JESUS KNEW THAT THE KEY TO POWER WAS ACKNOWLEDGING THE AVAILABILITY OF THE POWER. HE WAS NOT GIVING THANKS FOR ANYTHING...BUT GIVING THANKS FROM A HIGH PERSPECTIVE THAT SAW LIFE AS TRANSCENDENT TO DEATH. THEN HE AFFIRMED, "I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE" - NOT TO MAKE IT TRUE, BUT TO GET INTO THE FLOW OF THAT WHICH IS TRUE. THEN "LAZARUS COME FORTH!" HE WALKED OUT

WE MAY NOT UNDERSTAND THE IMPLICATIONS OF THIS
GREAT EVENT... THE ACTUAL RESURRECTION FROM THE
DEAD. BUT WE SHOULD NOT GET SO INVOLVED IN ANALYSIS
THAT WE LOSE SIGHT OF A SIMPLE FUNDAMENTAL. IF
~~XX~~
JESUS WOULD LIFT UP HIS EYES TO GET A TRANSCENDENT
VIEW IN THE ATTEMPT TO DEAL WITH THE SO-CALLED
"FINAL ENEMY" OF DEATH, HOW MUCH MORE IMPORTANT
IT IS TO LOOK UP AND GIVE THANKS IN EVERY EXPERIENCE
IN LIFE. THANKSGIVING CAN BE A DYNAMIC GOLDEN KEY
TO RESURRECT THE WANING POSSIBILITIES IN ANY
EXPERIENCE.

SET THINGS RIGHT

SEE THEM RIGHTLY

LOOK UP

NOW, THERE IS SOMETHING INTERESTING ABOUT
LOOKING UP AND GIVING THANKS... WHEN YOU RAISE
THE FOCUS OF YOUR ATTENTION... YOU EXPERIENCE A
COSMIC FLOW WHICH LEADS TO THE ATTITUDE OF PRAISE.
THANKSGIVING LEADS TO PRAISE... AND IN A CYCLE
OF POWER, PRAISE OF PEOPLE AND THINGS LEADS TO
A SENSE OF GRATITUDE.

NOW YOU MAY HAVE THOUGHT OF PRAISE AS COMMENDING OR
FLATTERING ANOTHER. BUT THE KEY TO PRAISE IS NOT
WHAT YOU DO FOR ANOTHER, BUT WHAT HAPPENS IN YOU
WHILE YOU DO IT. TO PRAISE SOMEONE OR SOMETHING
IS TO RELATE TO IT AT A HIGH LEVEL, TO SEE THE BEST
OR THE GOOD IN THE PERSON OR SITUATION.

THUS TO PRAISE IS TO RAISE THE LEVEL OF YOUR
THINKING. IT IS A DYNAMIC CONSCIOUSNESS RAISER.

YOU CAN PRAISE ANYTHING YOU HAVE THOUGHTS ABOUT.
AND AMAZING THINGS WILL HAPPEN.

YOU CAN PRAISE YOUR TYPEWRITER, YOUR CAR, YOUR TV, YOUR WASHING MACHINE. BY POWER OF PSYCHO-KINESIS, THERE IS ACTUALLY AN INFLUENCE.

PRAISE PEOPLE, PRAISE THINGS, PRAISE THE ORGANIZATIONS THAT DISTURB YOU, THE NATIONS THAT THREATEN YOU. PRAISE WILL RAISE YOUR ^{FOCUS OF ATTENTION} ~~CONSCIOUS-~~ ~~NESS~~ SO YOU WILL RELATE TO THEM AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF YOUR CONSCIOUSNESS - AND TEND TO DRAW OUT FROM THEM THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF THEIR PRESENT POTENTIAL.

➤ AND PRACTICE OF PRAISE WILL LEAD TO A NEW SENSE OF APPRECIATION FOR THE LITTLE THINGS IN LIFE.

FEW YEARS AGO... ARTICLE IN READERS DIGEST... DESCRIBING JAPANESE AND THEIR MOST REMARKABLE SENSE OF APPRECIATION.

TELLS OF ^A ~~LEGEND~~ OF GROWER OF CHRYSANTHEMUMS. THE EMPEROR WAS COMING TO ENJOY HIS BLOSSOMS. HAD HUNDREDS OF FLOWERS IN BLOOM. HE SELECTED THE MOST MAGNIFICENT SPECIMEN... CUT DOWN ALL THE OTHERS... LEAVING ONLY THIS ONE PERFECT FLOWER. EMPEROR CAME AND SAT FOR MANY HOURS QUIETLY LOOKING AT THIS FLOWER, LETTING ITS BEAUTY HAVE ITS WAY WITH HIM.

IT IS HARD TO IMAGINE AN AMERICAN SPENDING THAT MUCH TIME WITH ONE FLOWER... SIMPLY BECAUSE WE HAVE TENDED TOWARD THE LOSS OF APPRECIATION OF QUALITY IN OUR ACQUISITIVE URGE TO HAVE QUANTITY.

THE SAME ARTICLE TOLD OF A JAPANESE SNOW-VIEWING PARTY. IT WAS AT THE HOME OF A FAMILY WHO HAD A LOVELY PICTURE WINDOW LOOKING OUT ON A SNOWY LANDSCAPE. THE AFFAIR WAS HELD AT THE TIME OF A FULL MOON. THE MOON, SHINING ON THE SNOW, REFLECTED THE DARK BARREN BRANCHES OF THE TREES. THERE WAS NO CONVERSATION, NO DRINKING, NO TV, NO HUBBUB. THE GUESTS JUST CAME AND SAT ~~AS USUAL~~ AND APPRECIATED THE SNOW IN THE MOONLIGHT..

STRANGE KIND OF PARTY BY AMERICAN STANDARDS. AND YET ONE OF THE BASIC ELEMENTS OF THANKSGIVING IS THIS CAPACITY TO APPRECIATE THE SIMPLE THINGS OF LIFE.

▶ UNFORTUNATELY THIS KIND OF APPRECIATION DOESN'T COME TO US UNTIL WE HAVE FACED SOME SORT OF CRISIS. I HAVE NEVER FORGOTTEN THE TIME WHEN A WOMAN, AN INVALID CONFINED TO HER BED FOR YEARS... SHE LOOKED ~~UP~~ UP WHEN I CAME IN TO SEE HER AND SAID, "OH, I FEEL SO HAPPY AND GRATEFUL." WHEN I ASKED THE REASON FOR HER FEELINGS, SHE SAID:

"THE DOCTOR HAS JUST TOLD ME THAT IF I CONTINUE TO IMPROVE, AND IF THE WEATHER STAYS FINE, AND IF NOTHING UNUSUAL HAPPENS, IN TWO WEEKS I MAY BE TURNED OVER TO LIE ON THE OTHER SIDE."

THIS RECALLS THE THOUGHT OF MARCUS AURELIUS:

"THINK NOT SO MUCH OF WHAT THOU HAST NOT AS OF WHAT THOU HAST: BUT OF THE THINGS WHICH THOU HAST SELECT THE BEST, AND REFLECT HOW EAGERLY THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN SOUGHT IF THOU HADST THEM NOT."

PSALM 100 SINGS THE SONG OF CELEBRATION:

"ENTER HIS GATES WITH THANKSGIVING
AND INTO HIS COURTS WITH PRAISE."

THROUGH THE CONSTANT EXPRESSIONS OF PRAISE
AND THANKSGIVING, YOU WILL CHANGE YOUR WORLD.
IT WILL TAKE ON NEW COLOR, NEW INTEREST, NEW
MEANING.

YOU WILL COME TO KNOW YOUR TRUE GREATNESS --
THROUGH YOUR GRATEFULNESS. AND IN THIS
HIGH LEVEL OF CONSCIOUSNESS, YOU WILL COME
TO LIVE IN A NEW WORLD.

DEDICATE YOURSELF TO THE PRACTICE OF THANK-
THINKING AND THANKS-LIVING. NOT JUST A ONE DAY
SHOW OF PIETY AND THANKFULNESS. ACTUALLY,
YOU COULD SPEND A FULL DAY VOICING THOUSANDS OF
THANKFULNESS OUT OF A SENSE OF OBLIGATION TO
GOD...AND NEVER EVEN APPROACH A THANK-FILLED
CONSCIOUSNESS.

IT IS NOT TRYING TO BE GRATEFUL. FOR TO TRY TO
BE IS NOT TO BE. RATHER IT IS RECENTERING YOURSELF
AT THE ROOT OF YOUR BEING, WHERE YOU ARE FILLED
WITH THE ESSENCE OF GREATNESS...THE VERY ESSENCE
OF GOD IN YOU...AND...AS PLATO SAYS, THIS
GREATNESS WILL EVENTUALLY ATTRACT TO YOU
GREAT THINGS.

Look up

Dose of Cosmic Praise