



Jeff Sweeten

# Thus Saith the Lord

## THANKSGIVING

By Jeff Sweeten

Thanksgiving is one of my favorite times of the year. Thanksgiving Day is a national holiday in the United States commemorating the harvest of the Plymouth Colony in 1621. The event followed a winter of great hardship.

When it was first inaugurated, only a few eastern states participated. However, Sarah Hale decided to affect a change. She felt that the whole nation should join together in setting apart a national day for giving thanks “unto Him from whom all blessings flow.” Therefore, with a barrage of letters and articles to various newspapers and journals of her time, she began to plead long and earnestly with three Presidents: Fillmore, Pierce and Buchanan. Her campaign succeeded in uniting 29 states in marking the last Thursday of November as “Thanksgiving Day.”

Then came the dark days of the War Between the States. Who would listen to the persistent pleas of a lone woman for “just one day of peace amidst the blood and the strife?” One man did; her entreaty won the ear of a great American and in 1863 President Abraham Lincoln officially proclaimed the last Thursday of November as a day set apart for the national giving of thanks unto Almighty God.

Thankfulness seems to be a forgotten art, an expression relegated to a response to a gift or favor. Too many are more concerned these days with “what’s mine” and “what’s in it for me,” giving little consideration to the contribution others make to our very existence. We are entering a season of holidays that characteristically dwell more on “what we are getting” than on what we give. And, embarrassingly, the advertising has already begun.

The Bible identifies thanklessness with some of the most hardened sins. “For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, *unthankful*, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power” (2 Timothy 3:2-5a). It is almost surprising to see what many would consider such a minor infraction as being “unthankful” in the same bucket as “traitors” and “blasphemers.” On the other end of the spectrum, after a long litany of character qualities a Christian is encouraged to acquire and activate – like tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness and longsuffering (Colossians 3:12) – we are also told to “*be thankful*” (Colossians 3:15). It is hard to imagine anyone claiming to be a Christian and unthankful.

Rudyard Kipling at one time was so popular that his writings were getting ten shillings per word. A few college students however didn’t appreciate Kipling’s writings; they facetiously sent him a letter enclosing ten shillings. It read: “Please, send us your best word.”

They got a letter back from Kipling stating: “Thanks.”

It costs so little, it lasts so long, and it means so much. Say “Thank You” to someone today! Say “Thank You” to God right now!

Thus Saith the Lord  
is presented by the

## Park Heights Church of Christ

1300 E. Boynton St.  
Hamilton  
254-386-3953

### Schedule of Services

#### SUNDAY

9:30 a.m. Bible Class  
10:25 a.m. Morning Worship  
1:30 p.m. Afternoon Worship

#### WEDNESDAY

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

Please call or email if you  
have a question or comment  
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