

THE HISTORY OF THANKSGIVING



Introduction: Thanksgiving is this _____ in the United States!

“Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.”
([Psalm 107:1](#)).

1. Thanksgiving and the _____ (It all starts here)

Thanksgiving begins in the Bible, not in _____.

A. Thanksgiving is an act of _____ – [Psalm 95:1–7](#); Psalm 100

B. Thanksgiving is an act of _____ – [Deuteronomy 8:10–14](#)

C. Thanksgiving is an act of _____ – [1 Thessalonians 5:18](#)

¹⁸ *in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

According to this verse, how often should we give thanks? At ____ times, not just good times.

2. Thanksgiving and the _____ (1621)

A. The Pilgrims were a people _____ by Scripture – [Psalm 107:1](#)

Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.

B. The Pilgrims faced both _____ and mercy

In September _____ the pilgrims set sail to the New World. They traveled in two ships – the Speedwell and the Mayflower.

But little did they know what was coming – **Dark Cold** _____!

C. The Pilgrims made the first Thanksgiving an act of _____

In 1621 the pilgrims harvested their first crops in the new world (corn, beans and squash). They had an abundance of _____.

Governor William Bradford - “By the goodness of God we were in no want.” The pilgrims knew who to thank. Do we?

3. Thanksgiving and the _____

A. The establishment of _____ Thanksgiving days

Here is a short list of the key players:

John _____ (1558-1652) a Puritan minister of the First Church of Boston who advocated for days of prayer and thanksgiving.

Thomas _____ of the First Church of Cambridge (1605-1649), encouraged spiritual preparation for days of thanksgiving, linking them to repentance and recognizing God’s blessings.

Increase _____ (1639-1723) advocated for days of feasting and thanksgiving. He believed that the colonists should acknowledge God in both times of blessings and trial.

B. The Scripture became the _____ for Colonial Gratitude

C. The Puritans Practiced _____ first and meal second

A Typical Morning Worship Service

Often it was the governor who would proclaim the day, but the **pastors _____ the theology and order of worship.**

4. Thanksgiving and The _____ Congress (1777-1784)

A. _____ War proclamations (1775-1783)

It was during the Revolutionary War that Congress issued several calls for _____ and Thanksgiving.

B. George _____ 1789 Thanksgiving Proclamation

Yes, it was George Washington who issued the _____ National Thanksgiving Day proclamation under the New Constitution, designating November 26, 1789, as a day of “public Thanksgiving and prayer.”

C. _____ and a Biblical Worldview

Our early _____ leaders publicly credited God, not human effort, as the source of blessing. They had a biblical Worldview. May we not forget this in 2025.

5. Thanksgiving and _____ Lincoln (1863)

A. Thanksgiving and the _____ War

In 1863, in the middle of the _____ War (after the death of some _____ Americans), President Lincoln called for a day of national repentance, humility and gratitude on the last Thursday of November.

B. _____ Thanksgiving Proclamation of 1863

C. Lincolns _____ Proclamation Legacy

It has been said that Lincoln proclamation is _____ with making Thanksgiving a permanent national holiday, a tradition that all of us will partake of this Thursday, November 27th.

6. Thanksgiving and _____ D. Roosevelt (1939)

A. Thanksgiving Day _____ up by one week

In 1939 President Franklin D. Roosevelt moved Thanksgiving up by _____ week.

B. Purpose was to _____ the Economy

President Roosevelt goal was to extend the _____ shopping season to help boost the economy during the Great Depression.

C. It brought about confusion and _____

The Presidents Critics called it: _____

By 1941, Congress officially established Thanksgiving as the fourth Thursday of November, resolving the controversy.

Conclusion: Now, what is it that we as God's people need to receive from this reminder about the history of Thanksgiving?

1. Thanksgiving is found in the _____ first.
2. Thanksgiving Day(s) were founded by the _____.
3. Thanksgiving was continually promoted by the _____ preachers.
4. Thanksgiving was _____ to get through the Revolutionary War – victory, protection, and national preservation.
5. Thanksgiving proclamation by Abraham Lincoln paved the way for a _____ Day of Thanksgiving.
6. Thanksgiving has a _____-fold purpose: To cause us to look to God, to confess our dependence upon God, and to shalt out the Goodness of God in all areas of private and national life.