

Full of Thanks



A Basket of Apples

“Did you pick all the apples, son?” called the pleasant voice of his aproned mother as she stood on the porch. “The tree was so heavy and full of ripe ones...”

The boy struggled, coming as near to her as he could before his young arms gave way under the weight of the overly-filled basket of fruit. Staggering under

the load, he dropped to his knees and then lost his grip altogether. The basket fell from his small arms, tipping out its plentiful load.

“It was so full—” he cried joyfully, cheeks rosy red



from the crisp autumn breeze, “—so full it could not help but overflow!”

With these words, he jumped into the gathered pile of raked leaves. The yellow, orange and red crunchy leaves become a bed of joyful laughter...

Just as the basket of apples could not help but overflow, so the heart of a man cannot help but spill out thanks when he recognizes the goodness of His Creator....



Surrounded by Yesterday

**Yesterday's blossoms have
become today's apples, heavy upon
the branch,**

**Blanketing the ground beneath
the old apple tree.**

**Yesterday's sprouts have become
strong green leaves,**

Then brilliantly red,

**And now filling the path
crunching underfoot.**

**Yesterday's flowers no longer
crown their branches**

**Nor does their fragrance fill
the air.**

**Rather, seeds of the future
blow from their dry husk.**

**Yesterday's life seems all dead
and gone**

**Blown away by the chill of the
north wind**

**The fleeing ducks cry
a mournful song...**

Yet all hope is not really gone.

Seeds of Spring lie dormant,

**Sleeping in the fertile soil beneath
the leaves.**

**Yesterdays surround us as the cool
winds sweep our way,**

Signs of resurrection signal hope

Will it be hard to say "Thank you"

as you sit at your

festive table today?

Why Thanksgiving Day?

Why not Turkey Day?

Why not Football Day?



HISTORY gives the answer: 11-1-1777

A Continental Army retreat at Brandywine Creek in Pennsylvania leaves Philadelphia open for British occupation, and the Redcoats oblige. Delegates of the Continental Congress put the wide Susquehanna River between them and the British by relocating to York Town by September 30, 1777. Washington camps for the winter on December 19 in Valley Forge.

American forces under General Horatio Gates repulse the British General John Burgoyne and his troops in the Battle of

Why Thanksgiving Day?

Freeman Farm in New York. Burgoyne retreated to Saratoga where he surrendered on October 17, 1777. Some consider this victory to be the turning point in the American Revolution. Congress received the official news with great joy in York Town on October 31.

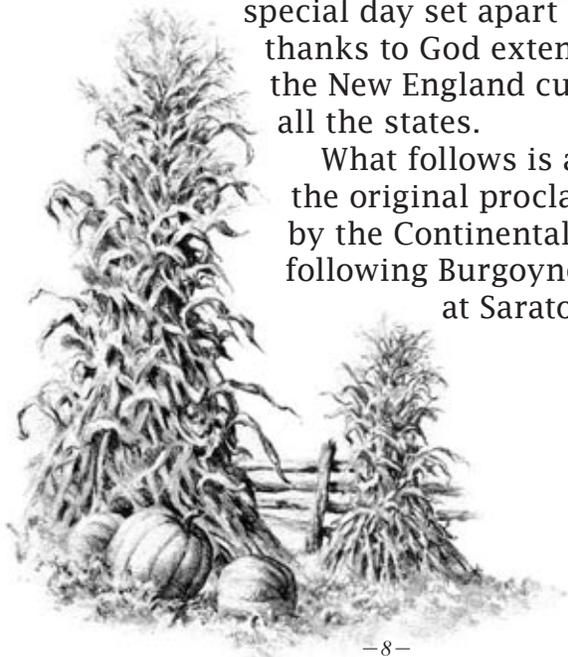
It was Nov. 1, 1777 (that is, 11-1-1777) when the first official, national recognition of Thanksgiving was given, when declared by the Continental Congress following Burgoyne's defeat at Saratoga. This defeat of Burgoyne and his army came following several grueling battles with the British. The leaders of the American forces desired to express thanks to God for this victory.



Why Thanksgiving Day?

The Continental Congress proclaimed a day of thanksgiving in appreciation for the providential help they had received. People in the 13 States widely observed this day of thanksgiving as ordered on December 18. Thus, the original Pilgrim concept of a special day set apart for giving thanks to God extended from the New England custom to all the states.

What follows is a copy of the original proclamation by the Continental Congress following Burgoyne's defeat at Saratoga:



November 1, 1777

“Forasmuch as it is the indispensable Duty of all Men to adore the superintending providence of Almighty God; to acknowledge with Gratitude their Obligation to him for benefits received, and to implore such further Blessings as they stand in Need of: And it having pleased him in his abundant Mercy, not only to continue to us the innumerable Bounties of his common providence; but also to smile upon us in the Prosecution of a just and necessary War, for the Defence and Establishment of our inalienable Rights and

Why Thanksgiving Day?

Liberties... It is therefore recommended to the legislative or executive Powers of these United States, to set apart Thursday, the eighteenth Day of December next, for the Solemn Thanksgiving and Praise: That at one Time and with one voice, the good People may express themselves to the Service of their Divine Benefactor... And it is further recommended, That servile labour, and such Recreations, as, though at other Times innocent, may be unbecoming the Purpose of this Appointment, be omitted on so solemn an Occasion.”

T-h-a-n-k-f-u-l

That which may be known of God is manifest to human beings instinctively; for God has revealed it unto them. For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world have been clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that human beings are without excuse: Because, though they knew about God, they glorified Him not as God, **neither were they “thankful”**; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools instead... (Romans 1:19-22)

In the Scriptures being **un-thankful** is equal to being a fool...

GENERAL WARNING

In a controlled group study over a thirty-year period to monitor the health and mental disposition of people under difficult circumstances, it has been conclusively proven that those who considered their circumstances too heavy for them, found occasion to complain, to accuse, and to feel victimized, did not prosper. But those who, in spite of equally difficult circumstances, found a way to be thankful to God for what they could and who did not become bitter about their hardships, showed a consistent and continual increase in their strength of character, their personal dignity, and overall well-being.

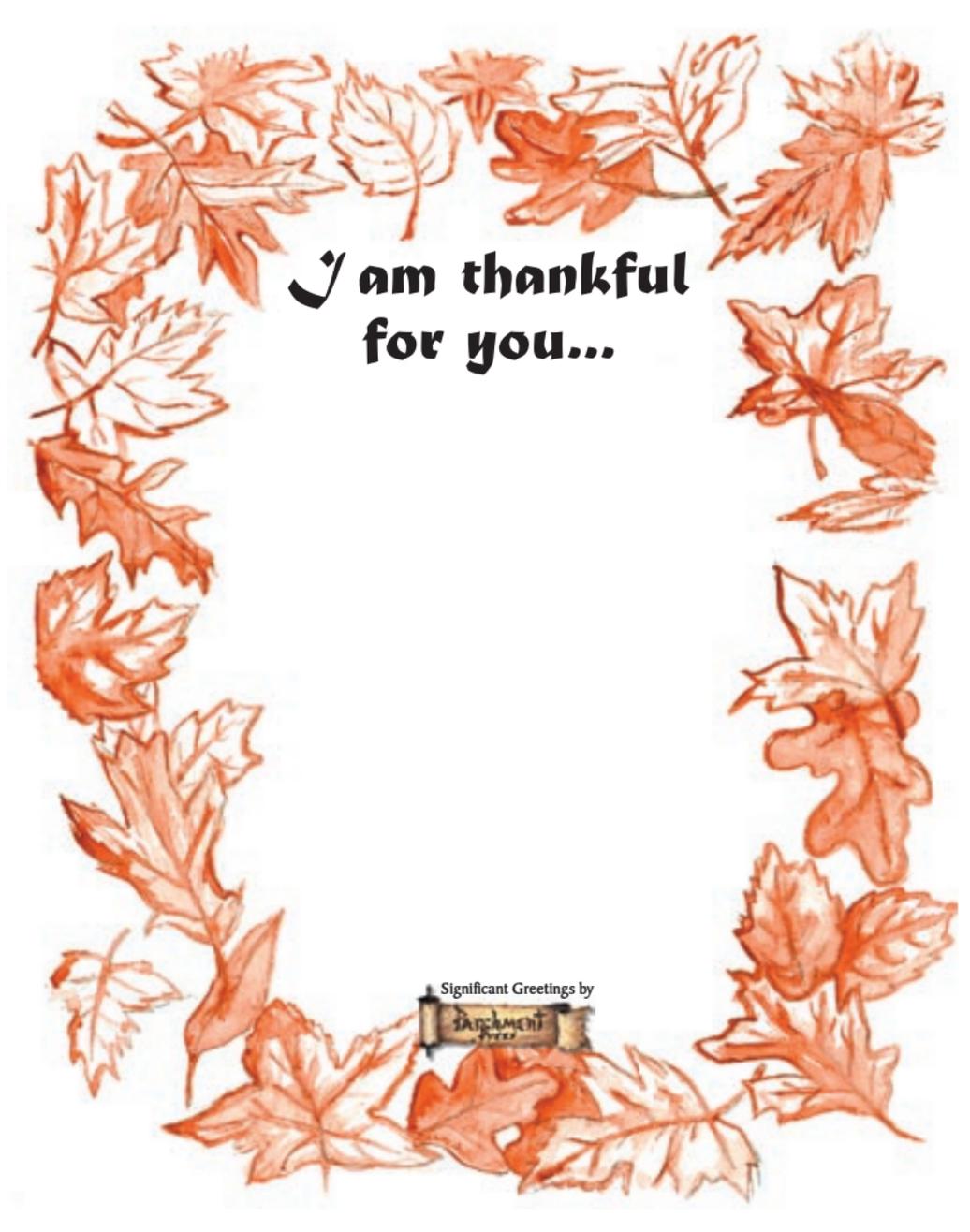
This conclusively verifies the ancient prescription for health:

A thankful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.

Proverbs 17:22

A hopeful look brings joy to the heart, and good thoughts gives health to the bones.

Proverbs 15:30



**I am thankful
for you...**

Significant Greetings by

