

“Be Ye Thankful”

Col. 3:15

Introduction:

- A. Memorial Day designed to remind Americans of debt of gratitude owed to so many.
- B. It is easy to enjoy our way of life with little thought of why we have it.
 - 1. Like hogs eating apples from a tree without every looking up.
 - 2. Of course, God is the prime source of all our blessings (Jas. 1:17)
 - 3. But what of so many who have gone before us?
- C. Let us look back with gratitude to those whose toils and sacrifices make our quality of life possible:
 - 1. As human beings.
 - 2. As Americans
 - 3. As Christians.

Discussion:

I. As Human Beings

- A. Noah’s labor to preserve the race (Heb. 11:7)
- B. Our Parents’ care and sacrifices for us (Eph. 6:2)
- C. Inventors’, researchers’ and developers’ contributions.

II. As Americans

- A. Such gratitude is appropriate (Cf. 1 Tim. 2:1-2)
- B. The framers of our constitution.
- C. The defenders of our constitution.
- D. Our freedom and way of life has not come cheap.

III. As Christians

- A. Abraham’s faithfulness leading to the Messianic nation (Heb. 11:8-10).
- B. Jews’ as custodians of the oracles of God (Rom. 3:2)
- C. Dedication, sacrifices, and hard work of the many before us.
 - 1. Apostles and other early Christians (cf. Acts 20:24; Gal. 2:5)
 - 2. The reformers beginning with the 1500's.
 - a. Put Bible into hands of common man.
 - b. Fought the corruption of the apostate church.
 - 3. The pioneers of the “Restoration Movement.”
 - 4. Those who saved the church from digressions of the recent years.
 - a. Those who stood against Societies and Instrumental music.
 - b. Those who stood against institutionalism and the social gospel.
 - 5. Those who led us to Christ by teaching and nurturing us.
- D. Work of Jesus Himself

Conclusion:

- A. The fact that all (except Jesus) were fallible men, does ‘t diminish their contributions to our welfare.
- B. Nor should their sins and mistakes diminish our gratitude for their labor and sacrifice.