

November 2018

Monthly Publication of the Christian Law Association

THE

ALERT

Happy
Thanksgiving



GIVING THANKS

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD AND THE FATHER
OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, PRAYING ALWAYS FOR YOU
COLOSSIANS 1:3

Thanksgiving Day, made a national holiday in 1863 by President Abraham Lincoln, celebrates the feast the Pilgrims held after their first successful corn harvest in 1621. What many Americans fail to remember is that Thanksgiving is not just about being thankful – it's about being thankful to the one true God.

One of the Pilgrims, Edward Winslow, wrote a letter before the feast to let a friend know of the successful harvest, and he had this to say: "These things I thought good to let you understand...that you might on our behalf give God thanks who had dealt so favourably with us."

There is an ongoing deliberate attempt to secularize American holidays, so many of which were established with the sole purpose of praising our Lord and Savior. This Thanksgiving, before we settle down to relax, let us be the beacon of light for our friends and families and remind everyone we know of the true reason for Thanksgiving – saying thank you to God for all the good things He has done for each and every one of us.

The Bible reiterates the importance of giving thanks all throughout Scripture.

Therefore I will give thanks unto Thee, O LORD, among the heathen, and I will sing praises unto Thy name.
II Samuel 22:50

Give thanks unto the LORD, call upon His name, make known His deeds among the people.
I Chronicles 15:8

Sing unto the LORD, O ye saints of His, and give thanks at the remembrance of His holiness.
Psalm 30:4

O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.
Psalm 136:1

The Scriptures command us over and over to give thanks. In this season of gratitude, give thanks to God for Who He is and what He has done!

LEGAL TIP

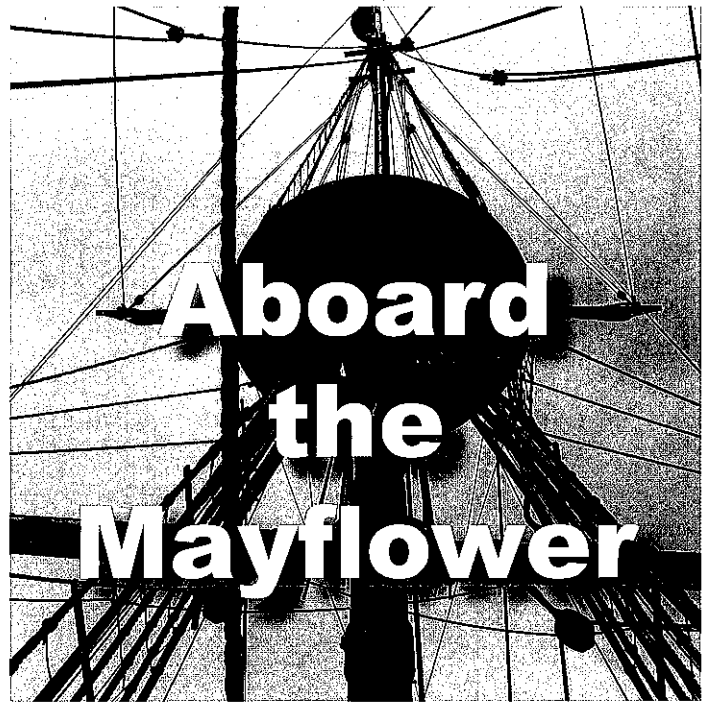
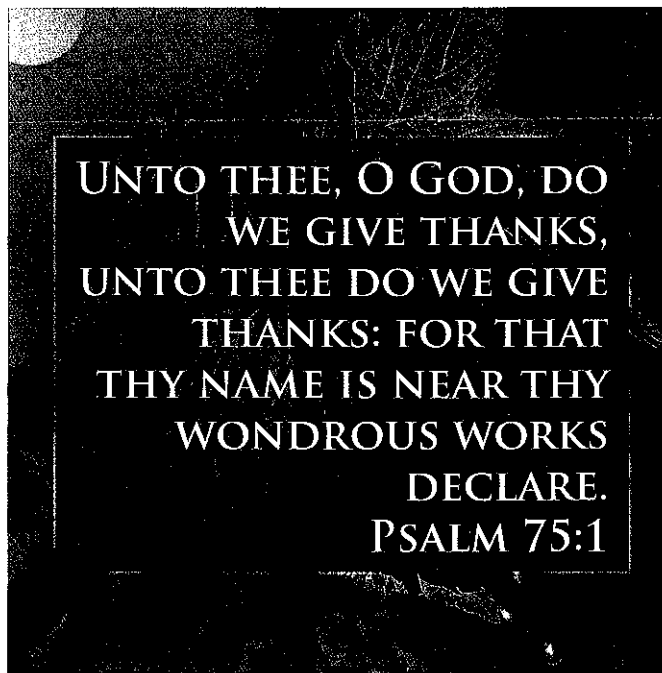
Churches often schedule events to celebrate Thanksgiving with the membership. Some ministries will even expand the event to include activities for the little ones, such as bounce houses and more.

These times of fellowship can be a fantastic form of outreach. As with any ministry event, wise preparations are necessary. Here are a few things to remember as your church prepares for Thanksgiving festivities:

- Food preparation and service laws
- Potential food allergies of your guests
- Insurance policy coverage
- Property maintenance

The Scriptures state “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!” These types of church events allow for harmony and peace, as well as soul-stirring praises and messages. Contact our ministry to keep your legal obligations in check so that you may be able to spend greater focus on the Spiritual aspects of the upcoming meeting.

Across America, churches will be joining together to praise God for His countless blessings. Take time to name them one by one.



On November 9, 1620, sixty-six days after their departure, land was sighted off what is now called Cape Cod, Massachusetts. The Pilgrims had intended to sail to the northern parts of Virginia, but they soon realized they had been blown off course by the storms.

Their attempts to correct their course and sail south were hindered by dangerous shoals along the coast. Interpreting this as the hand of God guiding them to stay where they were, the Pilgrims landed at Cape Cod on the Provincetown tip, praising God for their safe deliverance to the New World.

When the Pilgrims discovered they were not in Virginia and, therefore, technically not under any government's jurisdiction, some of the "strangers" (non-Pilgrims) among the group began whispering about the possibility of striking out on their own. That would have been disastrous for everyone. The Pilgrims had carefully chosen each man, including the "strangers" among them, for his unique skills. Each was absolutely essential for the survival of the colony. So the Pilgrims decided to bind their community together by drafting a self-governing document even before they disembarked. This document was destined to change the course of history.

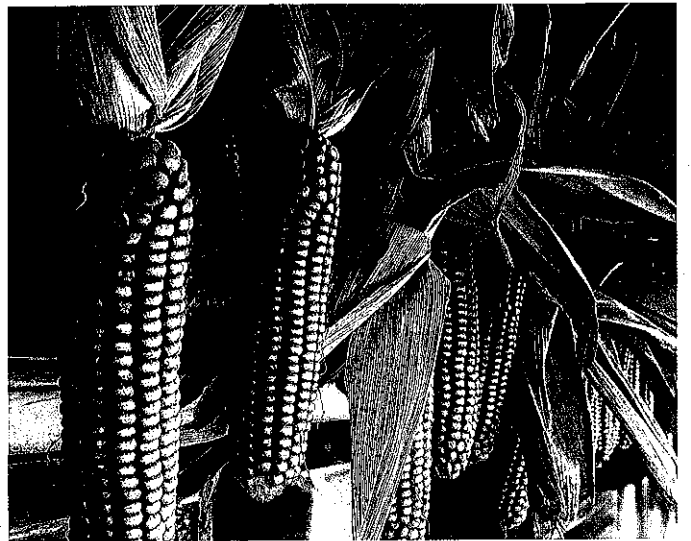
The Pilgrims wanted to submit themselves to a civil government that would mirror their early

congregation's spiritual covenant. Only copies of their civil covenant have survived. This document committed the entire colony to God and to each other for the good and preservation of them all.

Their agreement for self-government was called the Mayflower Compact. It was signed on November 11, 1620, before the travelers ever left their little ship. This document was destined to become the cornerstone for the American Constitution. The Mayflower Compact begins by recognizing God, Who had been leading them all along. When the Pilgrims had formulated a God-based government for themselves, they were ready to disembark and begin building a colony from which they could evangelize the New World.

In the spring of 1621, after barely surviving their first long and severe winter, God sent the weary settlers an Indian named Squanto who could speak their own language. Squanto offered to teach the Pilgrims how to survive in this strange new land. God had perfectly prepared this Indian to be a helper for the settlers.

The Pilgrims knew the value of Squanto's assistance and were careful to give God the glory for sending him to help them. William Bradford writes: "Squanto continued with them and was their interpreter and was a special instrument sent of God for their good beyond their expectation." The Pilgrims, in turn, shared with Squanto the most valuable treasure they had brought with them from England—the Gospel. Cotton Mather reports that Squanto died within a year or two after first coming to the aid of the Pilgrims, "but before his death, desired them to pray for him."



During that summer of 1621, when it appeared the year's corn harvest would not survive a severe drought, the Pilgrims called for a day of fasting and prayer. By the end of the day, it was raining. The rain saved the corn, which miraculously sprang back to life. One of the Indians who observed this miracle remarked:

Now I see that the Englishman's God is a good God; for he hath heard you, and sent you rain, and that without such tempest and thunder as we used to have with our rain; which after our Powawing for it, breaks down the corn; whereas your corn stands whole and good still; surely, your God is a good God.

That miraculous corn harvest provided the basis for the Pilgrims' first Thanksgiving, a tradition Americans continue to celebrate. Today, however, our public schools sometimes teach that Thanksgiving signifies the thanks the Pilgrims offered to their Indian neighbors who had helped them; but history demonstrates that, on that first Thanksgiving Day, the thanks of both Pilgrims and Indians went to God for His great goodness toward them.

While adventurers came to the New World for a number of reasons, including commerce, American self-government began in a very large measure because of the desire of these religious dissidents for religious freedom and for a government based upon the laws of God. Americans who learn the true Christian history of America should be very disturbed by the current historical revisionist trend to secularize that history. A Biblical faith was the cornerstone of our liberty and remains the key to its continuation.



GRATITUDE

In the court system, manners are important. Using courtroom etiquette such as calling a judge by the right name or following proper procedure can make a major difference in the long run. Much like this, following God's procedure for your life will create a world of difference in your Spiritual outcomes. The Bible, God's perfect Word, has outlined several steps that will transform your life if followed. One such command is being grateful.

All throughout the Scriptures, God has called us to be a thankful people.

First, we should be thankful for our salvation in Jesus Christ. If all the world as we know it ceased this very moment, and all you had was Jesus, that would be enough.

Second, we should be thankful for the countless blessings that God has undeservedly bestowed on us. As born sinners, God has mercifully given us far more than we deserve, and for that we ought to praise His name continually.



Third, we should be thankful simply because He commands us to be. God, Who so loved us when we were yet in our sin, gives the command in Psalm 100 to "Be thankful unto Him, and bless His name."

Not only does God command us to be grateful people, but He also condemns unthankfulness as sin that we will see in the last days. "For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, **UNTHANKFUL**, unholy" (II Timothy 3:2). We are clearly seeing unthankful spirits in America today, and we need to train believers the importance of being thankful.

As you pray and give thanks to the Lord this season, ask Him for a renewed sense of thanksgiving.

ABOUT THE CHRISTIAN LAW ASSOCIATION

The Christian Law Association is a ministry of legal helps.

CLA serves you the following ways:

- Free legal defense of those facing difficulties for the Biblical faith
- Free legal counsel to churches and Christians for their ministries
- Legal seminars for ministries to help prevent lawsuits
- Preaching in churches across the country
- Legal books and other resources to inform Christians of their rights
- Weekday radio program broadcast, *The Legal Alert*, on over 1,400 outlets around the world
- Publication of *The Legal Alert*, a monthly newsletter
- Free legal consulting to local, state, and federal officials and legislators to provide maximum religious liberty
- Intercessory prayer ministry for requests sent to the ministry offices
- Free legal help to homeschooling families
- Prayer initiative for our national leadership and government

PRAYER CHECKLIST

- ✓ Please pray for a church in **INDIANA** that called our ministry for legal assistance to help with some identity theft issues after an unauthorized individual gained access to church accounts.
- ✓ Praise the Lord a Christian ministry in **NORTH CAROLINA** was able to receive proper interview procedures after talking with a CLA attorney.
- ✓ Please pray as our attorneys help a Christian public school student in **GEORGIA** who was wrongly told by administration he had to remove his t-shirt simply because it had a religious message on it.
- ✓ Pray for CLA attorneys helping a church in **OHIO** appropriate new ministry vehicle procedures and legally advise about an unruly bus rider who would not listen to the bus ministry workers.
- ✓ Please pray for our legal team helping a church in **WASHINGTON** seeking legal guidance to provide a gift and blessing its pastor for years of service.
- ✓ Pray as our attorneys assist a pastor in **CALIFORNIA** who is in the process of transitioning his ministry.
- ✓ Praise the Lord a Christian in **TEXAS** was able to get his estate planning documents updated after discussing various options with a CLA attorney.
- ✓ Pray as our attorneys help a ministry in **MISSISSIPPI** update its constitution & bylaws to better reflect how things are to be run.
- ✓ Please pray diligently for a pastor in **ALABAMA** who contacted us for our resource “How to Legally Start a Ministry” to help him fulfill God’s call to start churches across the nation.
- ✓ Praise the Lord that CLA attorneys were able to assist a church in **ILLINOIS** in determining how long the church records should be kept, and the differences between physical and digital records, according to the law.
- ✓ Pray as CLA’s legal experts assist a church that was founded in the 1800s in **MICHIGAN** as they work on updating bylaws to be more relevant in today’s legal climate.
- ✓ Please pray for our attorneys advising a Christian in **FLORIDA** who was reprimanded at work for simply giving out a part of a Christian calendar to coworkers.
- ✓ Please pray as our attorneys assist a believer in **GEORGIA** who was mistreated by his employer for having a religious conviction to attend church services rather than work on Sundays.
- ✓ Pray as our legal staff assists a **MASSACHUSETTS** Christian school with updating security policies pertaining to the protection of both students and staff members.
- ✓ Please be in prayer for CLA’s legal team as we assist hundreds of ministries during the Christmas season. The public attacks against believers, particularly those who share the good news of Jesus Christ, are becoming even more common and more odious than ever before. As you enter the Christmas season, we pray that you will fulfill your calling to share the Gospel. Know that we are here to help you at no charge.