

The Hope of Glory – Col 1.27

“Thanksgiving”

"God commanded us to "give thanks in all circumstances" (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

After George Washington authorized the first Thanksgiving Day in 1789, 74 years passed without another such day of thanks. Then Abraham Lincoln established the holiday as an annual event in American life. His Thanksgiving Proclamation is worth reading again today:

"It is the duty of nations as well as of men to owe their dependence upon the overruling power of God; to confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon; and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scripture and proven by all history, that those nations are blessed whose God is the Lord.

We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven; we have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity; we have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us.

It has seemed to me fit and proper that God should be solemnly, reverently, and gratefully acknowledged, as with one heart and one voice, by the whole American people. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November as a day of Thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens."

When did President Lincoln authorize our annual Thanksgiving Day? In 1863 - in the midst of the Civil War.

Galatians 6:8-9 The Harvest

The great mystery of THE harvest was revealed: 1 Cor 2:9-10
Paul was anxious to spread that message: 1 Cor 15:35-49; Rom 5:2; Eph 1:18; and
Our text: Col 1:26-27

Many painfully beautiful things in this world:
Sunrise, sunset, Destin bridge scene, flowers, meadows, Grand Canyon
Many things pleasing to the eye – wife, husband, things in our homes
All subject to be taken away at any time

Many bright and ‘glorious’ things in this creation
Sun, moon, stars
Brilliance of a summer day

Many things of great value in this world
Gold, silver
Diamonds, money (“filthy lucre”)

But nothing comparable to, or that can prepare us for the sight of, the glory of the Saints in Christ at His appearing and kingdom.

“The King in His beauty...” (Isa 33:17)

1 John 3:1-3 We will see THE King as He is

Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom – 1 Corinthians 15:50

Great promises include partaking of Divine Nature 1Pe 1:3-5

Will be revealed when Christ is revealed - 1 Pet 5:1; 1 Pet 1:13

Glory has referred to earthly riches - Gen 31:1

Has been used to refer to earthly power and honor - Gen 45:13

But particularly God's glory:

Exo 24:16-18

Exo 33:18-23 Moses asked to see God

Exo 34:29-30 – Effect of Moses being in proximity to the glory of God

Ezek 1:26-28 Ezekiel’s description of the representation of the glory of God

Mat 17:1-3 Jesus is the very essence of the glory of God; Mar 9:2-4; Luk 9:29-31

John 17:5

John 17:22 Jesus gave this same glory to us; John 17:24

1 Tim 3:16 - Mystery of godliness, Christ ascended to enter it (Lk 24:26)

Acts 7:55-56 - Vision of Christ in glory used to strengthen first martyr

Acts 26:12-13 - Paul’s description of encounter with glorified Lord

Rev 1:9-18 - John’s description of Him in whose image we will be made

2 Peter 1:3-4 - We will partake of the divine nature

1Pe 5:10 - Worth any suffering we may have to endure here.