

Thanksgiving in the Bible

New Testament Christians are no longer required to observe special holidays. (*Romans 14:5-6*) However, because of our liberty in Christ, we can choose to celebrate secular holidays such as this week's Thanksgiving Day. The word "thanksgiving" can be defined as the expression of gratitude, especially to God. Christians are to be thankful people, not only for the physical, but for spiritual blessings as well. What does the bible say about "thanksgiving"? Here is a sample:

- Being freed from sin brings thanksgiving (*Romans 6:17*)
- Our victory through Christ causes thanksgiving (*1 Corinthians 15:57*)
- Thanksgiving is to be conjoined with prayer (*Philippians 4:6*)
- We have thanksgiving because God is good (*Psalms 118:29*)
- Relationships in the church cause thanksgiving (*Philippians 1:3*)
- Thanksgiving is to accompany our life in Christ (*Colossians 2:6-7*)
- All food is to be received with thanksgiving (*1 Timothy 4:4*)
- Thanksgiving is to be accompanied with singing (*Psalms 95:2*)

While counting our blessings and being thankful to God is a good thing, we must never forget that God blesses us so that we can be a blessing to others. The bible says we should labor, working with our hands what is good, that we may have something to give to those who have need.

(*Ephesians 4:28*) The scriptures also gives us this reminder, "*But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.*"

(*Hebrews 13:16*)

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