

Thanksgiving 2011

This week we will observe Thanksgiving. Turkey, ham and all the fixings will be set on the table and our stomachs will be over filled. Families and friends will gather together and enjoy each other. Many will stop to reflect on the things they are thankful for.

Back in 1620 the pilgrim came to the land we now call the United States. Their first winter was very hard on them. Out of the 102 settlers, 44 died that winter because of a lack of food.

When spring came, they found 20 acres of land ready to plant. That harvest season was very good so they decided that December 13 would be a day of feasting and thanksgiving.

80 Indians who brought wild turkey and venison joined them for the celebration. They spent 3 days feasting and praying.

In 1863, President Lincoln officially made the last Thursday in November a day of Thanksgiving. In 1941, Congress ruled that the 4th Thursday in November be observed as a legal holiday called Thanksgiving.

Throughout the Bible, we find examples of Thanksgiving.

Israelites sang a song of thanksgiving after crossing the red sea.

God established 3 Festivals centered on being thankful.

Nearly every chapter in Psalms has a word of thanks.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 – rejoice, pray, give thanks

Philippians 4:6 – with thanksgiving

What does thanksgiving actually mean?

Thanksgiving – (Greek) giving thanks, thankfulness, mindful of favors given
(Hebrew) to throw out a shout of praise

(Webster) a prayer expressing thanks, a public expression or celebration of divine goodness

Who wants to give a public expression of their thanks?