To Whom Much Gratitude Is Due



Words to Find: Mother Father Teachers Pastor Police Friends Family Wife Husband Doctors Military Leaders Grandparents Jesus God HolySpirit Firemen

Employer

Like Mule and Ox

Sunday School Circle

A prominent society man asked a preacher whether it was according to the rules of etiquette to say grace at a banquet table. The clergyman replied, "I do not know much about etiquette, but I remember seeing on the wall of a farmer's home a picture showing mules and oxen at a feed crib.

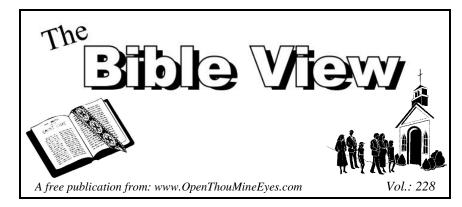
They were devouring the fodder and scattering some beneath their feet, and over the picture was this inscription:

"Who without prayer sits down to eat.

And without thanks then leaves the table.

Tramples the gift of God with feet, And is like mule and ox in stable."

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Lincoln's Thanksgiving Proclamation

Abraham Lincoln, October 3, 1863

It is the duty of nations as well as of men to own 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 Scriptures and proven by all history, that

those nations are blessed whose God is the LORD.

We know that by His divine law, nations, like individuals, are subjected to punishments and chastisements in this world. May we not justly fear that the awful calamity of civil war which now desolates the land may be a punishment inflicted upon us for our presumptuous sins, to the needful

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God Hears What We Say

The Pilot

The head of a household at the morning meal had asked the blessing as usual, thanking God for a bountiful provision. Immediately afterward, he began to grumble about the hard times, the poor quality of food he was forced to eat, and the way it was cooked.

His little daughter interrupted him. "Father," she began, "do you suppose God heard what you said a little while ago?"

"Certainly," he replied confidently.

"And did He hear what you said about the bacon and the coffee?"

"Of course," not quite so confidently.

"Then, Father, which did God believe?"

Even when we as children of God do remember to thank Him for the blessings He pours into our lives, are we not often like this man? Do not our words and our deeds often contrast sharply with the thanks we utter?

Lincoln's ...

Continued from Page 1 end of our national reformation as a whole people?

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 Fa-

ther who dwelleth in the heavens.

Madison's Thanksgiving Proclamation

James Madison, November 16, 1814

By the president of the United States of America — a proclamation.

The two
Houses of the
National
Legislature

having by a joint resolution ex-

pressed their desire that in the present time of public calamity and war a day may be recommended to be observed by the people of the United States as a day of public humiliation and fasting and of prayer to Almighty God for the safety and welfare of these States, His blessing on their arms, and a speedy restoration of peace.

I have deemed it proper by this proclamation to recommend that Thursday, the 12th of January next, be set apart as a day on which all may have an opportunity of voluntarily offering at the same time in their respective religious assemblies their humble adoration to the Great Sovereign of the Universe, of confessing their sins and transgressions, and of strengthening their vows

"In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

I Thessalonians 5:18

of repentance and amendment. They will be invited by the same solemn occasion to call to mind the distinguished favors conferred on the American people in the general health which has been enjoyed, in the abundant fruits of the season, in the progress of the arts instrumental to their comfort, their prosperity, and their security, and in the victories which have so powerfully contributed to the defense and protection of our country, a devout thankfulness for all which ought to be mingled with their supplications to the Beneficent Parent of the Human Race that He would be graciously pleased to pardon all their offenses against Him; to support and animate them in the discharge of their respective duties; to continue to them the precious advantages flowing from political institutions so auspicious to their safety against dangers from abroad, to their tranquility at home, and to their liberties, civil and religious; and that He would in a special manner preside over the nation in its public councils and constituted authorities, giving wisdom to its measures and success to its arms in maintaining its rights and in overcoming all hostile designs and attempts against it; and, finally, that by inspiring the enemy with dispositions favorable to a just and reasonable peace its blessings may be speedily and happily restored

. . . .

In Everything Give Thanks

Author Unknown

Sunshine, cloud, or stormy days, When hope abounds or care dismays,

When trials press and toils increase

Let not thy faith in God decrease, In everything give thanks.

All things we know shall work for good.

Nor would we change them if we could:

'Tis well if only He command; His promises will ever stand — In everything give thanks.

He satisfies the longing Heart, He thwarts the tempter's cruel dart,

With goodness fills the hungry soul,

And helps us sing when billows roll,

In everything give thanks.

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance."

— Psalms 33:12

"Some people complain because God put thorns on roses, while others praise Him for putting roses among thorns."

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