

MEADOWBROOK BAPTIST CHURCH

102 North Park Drive

Worship 9:00 AM / November 17, 2024

Fellowship Time 10:00 – 10:30

Meadowbrookbaptist.cc

God bless America, land that I love. Stand
beside her and guide her Through the night
with the light from above. Amen!

THANKSGIVING FOR AMERICA

“Do not forget how the Lord has led you
through the desert (wilderness) for the past
forty years. He wanted to find out if you were
truly willing to obey Him and depend on Him.”-
Deuteronomy 8:2

When our Pilgrim Forefathers landed at
Plymouth Rock, they stood face to face
with the wilderness, we now know as
America. Before them lay the fierce land,
with its hardships, heartbreaks, wild
savages; torturous winters; and unseen
treasures.

Behind them was a bitter nation which
would oppose their bid for freedom and
make them pay for it with their blood. But
with faith in God, an unquenchable
determination to be free, a dedication to
hard work and a willingness to suffer;
they won the victory we now possess. A
colonial tombstone on the James River in
Virginia, raised in tribute to a pioneer
woman, reads:

“Her foot touched the soil of Virginia
and a wilderness became a home.”

Their story is not unique. It is always God’s
way to lead us through the wilderness to
achieve anything worthwhile.

“If you find life worthwhile, it is not because
you found it that way, but because you made
it that way.”

This is true when it comes to nations, to
churches or to each one of us as
individuals. It is through the hard,
demanding roads through the wilderness,
that we, like the children of Israel, four
thousand years before us, find our
promised lands. The things in life that
really matter are not gifts, they are
achievements. They are carved, like
America, out of some wilderness. They
are found, like Israel, at the end of a hard,
dangerous path.

A *strong* character is not received, it is
achieved. A *good* church does not spring
up out of nowhere. It rises from the soul
of a people who are not afraid to pay the
price. And the same thing is true of a
nation. America was, and is, God’s gift to
the world; but He gave it to those who
were willing to walk the wilderness way
and mix their sweat, their blood, and their
tears in her rich soil.

Our text is from a sermon by Moses. The
people had finally made it to the border
of the Promised Land; and now they
faced the difficult, dangerous task of
taking the land God had given them.
There were hundreds of walled cities
with warriors, willing to fight to the death
to keep their homeland. Spies sent into
the land said these warriors made them
look like “grasshoppers” (Numbers 11).