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The Coffee Baptist Vision
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November 24, 2022

A MOMENT WITH THE MODERATOR

What do we have left to be thankful for? According to God's Holy Word we are to give thanks always, and for everything. The day we set aside as Thanksgiving Day is in our very near future. This year, the fourth Thursday in November falls on the 24th. Several things come to mind as we approach Thanksgiving. Usually, we are thinking of a holiday, which means most of us have a "day off". And we are excited about getting together with loved ones, "catching up", and for many of us a little too much to eat! Today, I want to explore a little of how this came about.

As a child I was taught in school about the "First Thanksgiving" with the Pilgrims and Native Americans. I have since learned that this was "their" first Thanksgiving in America, and I do not intentionally dishonor that. But, over the years I have learned that various cultures also had celebrations of thanksgiving before the year 1621. These celebrations had various names, but all were intended to express thanks for God's blessings of providing their needs.

What do we have left to be thankful for? Sarah Josepha Hale worked approximately 36 years to establish Thanksgiving as a national holiday. The last 17 years she worked ardently to persuade the federal government to establish Thanksgiving as a national holiday, and she pestered Abraham Lincoln until in 1863 he did just that. It is with profound gratitude that I celebrate being an American, and more than that, I celebrate being a **Christian!** Not just on this holiday, but every day. The grace of gratitude is something we must cultivate. Paul wrote that we are to rejoice always. Paul was sitting in prison when he wrote this.

We find ourselves in a thankless world. The ruthless destruction that mankind has implemented is evidence that not everyone is thankful for the blessings of God. So I ask is it possible to be thankful in such a world as ours? Do tears and thankfulness go together? What is there left to be thankful for? First, we can always be thankful for our Heavenly Father. Jesus is just and righteous. He knows what His children are going through. Another blessing we can be thankful for is that God is changeless in a constantly changing world. We can be thankful that we can still tell others about Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Even in the face of recession, depression, and oppression, what a God blessed country that we live in!

What do we have left to be thankful for? As Thanksgiving Day comes, let us come to God and be thankful for all the good He has bestowed upon us, and that people can still experience the abounding riches of God's saving grace. For we can **always** be thankful for that.

In His Service,
Rev. Leon Fortune



Happy Thanksgiving!

Minister/Staff/Spouse Banquet

December 1, 2022 at 6:30 PM
Coffee Baptist Association
Conference Center
Call our office to RSVP .

**Ministers' Meetings
have been cancelled until
further notice.**

Calendar of Events

November

24 - Thanksgiving Day - Office Closed

December

1 - Vineyard Work Day - 8:00 AM

1 - Minister/Staff/Spouse Banquet - 6:30 PM

5 - Coffee Cakes - 8:00-11:00 AM

5 - Widows' Ministry Meeting - 6:00 PM

26 - Office Closed

28-29 - Serv334



Coffee Cakes for Alabama Baptist Children's Homes

December 5, 2022
8:00 - 11:00 AM

Baked goods and boxed mixes/icing
will be accepted.

SERV

December 28-29

A call for students to come together
and serve the "334"

For youth grades 7-12

For more information contact
servthe334@gmail.com

 Serv334

Widows' Ministry Meeting

December 5, 2022
6:00 PM

Ino Baptist Church Handbell Choir
will be ringing!

Bring your favorite dessert!

Please pray for the Military Support Group.

Tuesdays at 7:00 pm
at Church on Boll Weevil Circle
Call Dr. John Granger if you are in need.

Goodman Baptist Church is in search of a Bi-Vocational Youth Minister.

Contact Bro. Bruce Williams
at 334-389-3621 for more info.