

“Oh, give THANKS!”

Shadrack Means

Media Reference Number JH608

Wednesday, November 27, 2024

Key Words: Thanks, Thanksgiving

November 29th, 1623, William Bradford, governor of the Plymouth Colony, penned. *“To All Ye Pilgrims: Inasmuch as the great Father has given us this year an abundant harvest of Indian corn, wheat, beans, squashes, and garden vegetables, and has made the forests to abound with game and the sea with fish and clams, and inasmuch as He has protected us from the ravages of the savages, has spared us from pestilence and disease, has granted us freedom to worship God according to the dictates of our own conscience; now, I, your magistrate, do proclaim that all ye Pilgrims, with your wives and little ones, do gather at ye meeting house, on ye hill, between the hours of 9 and 12 in the day time, on Thursday, November ye 29th of the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred and twenty-three, and third year since ye Pilgrims landed on ye Pilgrim Rock, there to listen to ye pastor, and render thanksgiving to ye Almighty God for all His blessings.”* William Bradford, the governor of Plymouth Colony.

Here we find ourselves, 401 years later, still reflecting on the enduring impact of that proclamation.

- Today, November 27th, 2024, the Lord has protected us from the ravages of savages, spared us from pestilence and disease, and granted us freedom to worship God according to the dictates of our conscience and in accordance with His holy word!

A Psalm of Thanksgiving

Psalm 100:1-5 ¹ Make a joyful shout to the Lord, all you lands! ² Serve the Lord with gladness; come before His presence with singing. ³ Know that the Lord, He is God; *It is He who* has made us, and not we ourselves; *we are* His people and the sheep of His pasture. ⁴ Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, *and* into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, *and* bless His name. ⁵ For the Lord *is* good; His mercy *is* everlasting, and His truth *endures* to all generations.”

- *“yadah (יָדָה, 3034), “to confess, praise, give thanks.” The root, translated as “confess” or “confession” about twenty times in the KJV, is also frequently rendered “praise” or “give thanks.” At first glance, the meanings may appear unrelated. But upon closer inspection, it becomes evident that each sense profoundly illumines and interprets*

the other."¹ Vine, W. E., Unger, M. F., & White, W., Jr. (1996). In *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words* (Vol. 1, p. 44). T. Nelson.

In the New Testament we read.

- **Ephesians 5:20** "...*giving thanks* always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."
- **Colossians 3:17** "And whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, *giving thanks* to God the Father through Him."
- **Hebrews 13:15** "Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of *our* lips, *giving thanks* to His name."
 - *Giving thanks* –
 - *homologeō* (ὁμολογέω, 3670), *lit.*, "to speak the same thing" (*homos*, "same," *lego*, "to speak")."¹ Vine, W. E., Unger, M. F., & White, W., Jr. (1996). In *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words* (Vol. 2, p. 120). T. Nelson.
 - To admit, to make confession.

The folly of thanklessness

Romans 1:20-22 "²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, ²¹ because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Professing to be wise, they became fools..."

- **2 Timothy 3:1-2** "¹ But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: ² For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful..."

How often should we give thanks?

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 "¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

- Or in ALL things.
 - In all circumstances, good and bad.

Why should we give thanks?

Romans 8:28 "...we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose."

- You're His child! He LOVES YOU!!
 - **John 10:10b** "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it more abundantly*."

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. What is the chief end of man?

A. Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever.