

The Barnabas Letter

The season of Advent and Thanksgiving has now arrived. The fourth Thursday of every November is reserved for a day of thanksgiving and, this year Advent begins on November 29. Now then, we should, as Christians, be a people that gives thanks to Almighty God on a daily basis but let us take a look at Thanksgiving Day just a little bit more closely. This holiday was originally set aside to commemorate the very first day of thanksgiving by the Pilgrim Fathers. Just who were these people anyway? Well, they were religious dissenters from the Church of England, for the most part, who came to a wild new world in order to freely worship God in their own fashion. They were, like all of us, flawed and weak but they trusted in our Savior above all things. They braved all of the hardships attendant upon settling in a wilderness because they trusted in the God Who is there and as a result, we have this wonderful country in which we live. We can learn a lot from our early forebears and if we would just pay attention, we could see how our Lord has used these pioneers to show us how we should exercise our faith. The early settlers knew little or nothing about the wilderness that they encountered, they simply trusted in God to help them and help them He did! He sent them help in the form of friendly Indians to show them how to survive in the cold Massachusetts winter, how to plant their crops and when to plant them. The earliest settlers treated the natives with the respect that they deserved and they paid for every acre of land that they took for their own. In addition they did their very best to bring the Gospel to their new neighbors.

As we sit down to our own Thanksgiving dinner this year, let us reflect upon those early pioneers and let us give our Lord humble and hearty thanks for their good example. Let us also give our Lord thanks for the freedom that we still enjoy and let us endeavor to do all that we can to emulate the good things that our Pilgrim Fathers did. Until next month, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Your brother in Christ Jesus;

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor A.W." The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed text "Your brother in Christ Jesus;".