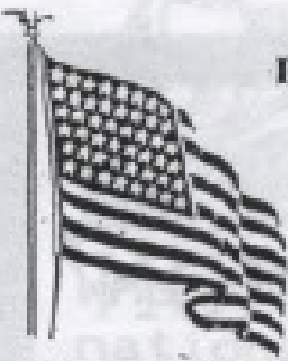


II Cor. 3:17 -- "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is..."



LIBERTY

A Ministry of Grace Baptist Church, Pittsfield, Illinois - 217-285-5230

Dr. Gary Dicoe, Pastor

Dr. Leonard Dice, Editor

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Be Thankful

We have become so accustomed to thinking of Thanksgiving in terms of gratitude for material blessings and nature's bounty that we find it hard to think in terms of being grateful for God's good gifts that are hidden in experiences we resist or try to avoid. So—

Let us thank God for the opposition we have had to meet, the resistance that has forced us to put forth our best effort and the disputes that have compelled us to reexamine our arguments and eliminate the flaws.

Let us thank God for the struggles that have caused us to grow, the defeats that have kept us humble, the losses that have made us cautious and the dangers that have kept us alert.

Let us thank God for the risks we have had to take that have brought out hidden strengths.

Every Thanksgiving the newspapers are full of diagrams showing how to carve a turkey. The trouble is that the birds we get never have dotted lines on them.



In Days Gone By

On Nov. 30, 1628, John Bunyan died. He wrote "Pilgrim's Progress" on bottle stoppers while in jail for his Baptist beliefs. He preached anywhere and everywhere he could.

Thanksgiving

How do you say Thank You

A friend says it with a hand shake.
A baby says it with a gurgle and coo.
The bear says it with a raise!
A child says it with a squeal and a shout.
A wife says it with a tear in her eye.
A flower says it with beauty.
The sky says it with a rainbow.
And God says it with blessings.



How do YOU say it?

'THANKSGIVING

PROCLAMATION'



**ABRAHAM LINCOLN,
1863**

It is the duty of nations, as well as of men, to owe 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 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 Father who dwelleth in the heavens.



WASHINGTON'S PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor;

WHEREAS, Both the houses of Congress have, by their joint committee, requested me "to recommend to the people of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness!"

Now, therefore, I do recommend next, to be devoted by the people of the states to the service of that great and glorious being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, and that will be, that we may then all unite rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks for His kind care and protection of the people of this country.

—George Washington

Miscellaneous.

Leonard R. Dice, Editor and Asst. Pastor

*STORIES
*EVENTS
*VIEWS
*NEWS



DREAM OF A LIFE-TIME TO BE FULFILLED

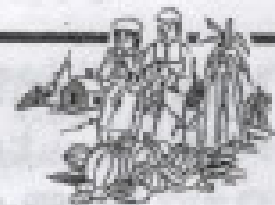
Pastor and Mrs. Gary Dice, Grace Baptist Church, Pittsfield, Illinois will be going on an exciting trip to Israel, the Holy Land, beginning on December 3. They will be traveling with a great group of Christian people, headed up by Dr. Ray Young, and will fly out of Chicago's O'Hare Airport on December 3. They will arrive in Tel Aviv on December 4.

This is a dream come true for Pastor Dice who planned to go earlier in 2015, but due to open-heart surgery and complications, he had to cancel those plans. However, in the last several months his health has greatly improved, so much so, that he is back to preaching full-time, something that we have all been praying for!

They will be traveling in two big buses, and will see many of the places where great events took place as recorded in the Bible. He has one great desire and that is to "walk where Jesus walked!" They will visit Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth (the town where Jesus was raised as a boy), the Jordan River and the Sea of Galilee, even to taking a boat ride on the Sea. I'm sure, as a church, we will get to see all the pictures and hear all the stories when they get back. Pray for their safety.

Pastor Dice recently observed his 62nd birthday on November 16. Also, earlier this year on June 10, he marked his 29th year as pastor of Grace Baptist Church.

THANKSGIVING



In the years following the coming of the first settlers, Thanksgiving was a time for reflection and gratitude to God. The concept was so ingrained in the national fabric that it was natural for the day to be incorporated into the official national life, such as taking oaths on the Bible, reading the Bible in schools, offering public and private prayers and setting aside Sunday for a day of rest and worship.

Thanksgiving is truly a special time for believers as we step away from the world and give time, reflection and gratitude to our Heavenly Father.