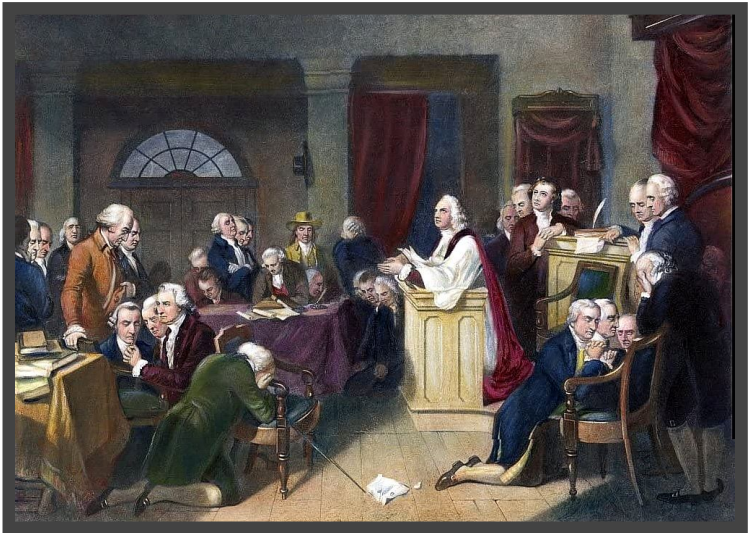
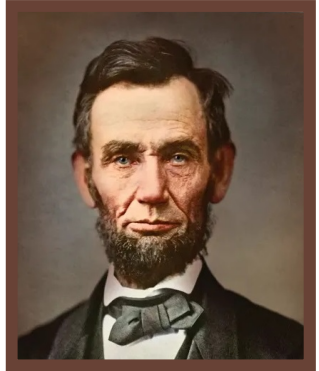
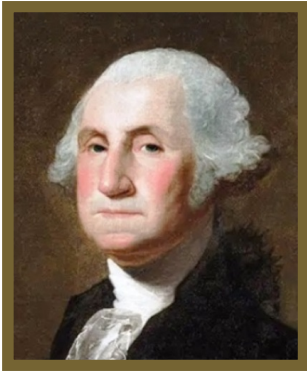


Now THAT's Thanksgiving!



Now THAT's Thanksgiving!

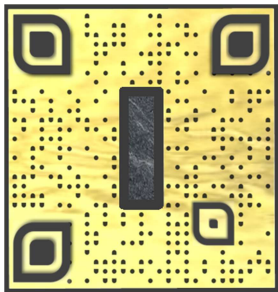
by Kevin Barr

from "A Collection of Short Letters"

found at <https://PeaceAndGodWill.com>



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cover: "First Continental Congress at Prayer, 1774"

The actual prayer offered that day can be read here:

<https://chaplain.house.gov/archive/continental.html>

Now THAT's Thanksgiving!

Thanksgiving was originally intended as a way for a community to “give thanks” to God. Before the annual holiday started America had single day versions of it. Here are three early examples (blue highlights for quick scanning):

The Continental Congress, the legislative body that governed the United States from 1774 to 1789, made several “national days of prayer, humiliation, and thanksgiving” proclamations, with this one being observed on November 28, 1782:

“It being the indispensable duty of all nations, not only to offer up their supplications to Almighty God, the giver of all good, for His gracious assistance in a time of distress, but also in a solemn and public manner, to give Him praise for His goodness in general, and especially for great and signal interpositions of His Providence in their behalf; therefore, the United States in Congress assembled, taking into their consideration the many instances of Divine goodness to these States

in the course of the important conflict, in which they have been so long engaged; the present happy and promising state of public affairs, and the events of the war in the course of the year now drawing to a close; particularly the harmony of the public Councils which is so necessary to the success of the public cause; the perfect union and good understanding which has hitherto subsisted between them and their allies, notwithstanding the artful and unwearied attempts of the common enemy to divide them; the success of the arms of the United States and those of their allies; and the acknowledgment of their Independence by another European power, whose friendship and commerce must be of great and lasting advantage to these States; Do hereby recommend it to the inhabitants of these States in general, to observe and request the several states to interpose their authority, in appointing and commanding the observation

of THURSDAY the TWENTY-EIGHTH DAY OF NOVEMBER next as a day of SOLEMN THANKSGIVING to GOD for all His mercies; and they do further recommend to all ranks to testify their gratitude to God for His goodness by a cheerful obedience to His laws and by promoting, each in his station, and by his influence, the practice of true and undefiled religion, which is the great foundation of public prosperity and national happiness.”

As President, on October 3, 1789, George Washington made the following proclamation and created the first Thanksgiving Day designated by the national government of the United States of America:

“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, and whereas both 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 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 and assign Thursday the 26th day of November next to be devoted by the People of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be. That we may then all unite in rendering unto him our sincere and humble thanks, for his kind care and protection of the People of this Country previous to their becoming a Nation, for the signal and manifold mercies, and the favorable interpositions of his providence, which we experienced in the course and conclusion of the late war, for the great

degree of tranquility, union, and plenty, which we have since enjoyed, for the peaceable and rational manner, in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national One now lately instituted, for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed; and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and in general for all the great and various favors which he hath been pleased to confer upon us.

And also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations and beseech him to pardon our national and other transgressions, to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually, to render our national government a blessing to all the people, by constantly

being a Government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed, to protect and guide all Sovereigns and Nations (especially such as have shown kindness unto us) and to bless them with good government, peace, and concord. To promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the increase of science among them and us, and generally to grant unto all Mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as he alone knows to be best.”

In the middle of the American Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national Thanksgiving Day, to be celebrated on the 26th, the final Thursday of November 1863. The document, written by Secretary of State William H. Seward, reads as follows:

“The year that is drawing towards its close has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties,

which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever-watchful providence of Almighty God. In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity, which has sometimes seemed to foreign States to invite and to provoke their aggression, peace has been preserved with all nations, the order has been maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere except in the theatre of military conflict; while that theatre has been greatly contracted by the advancing armies and navies of the Union. Needful diversions of wealth and of strength from the fields of peaceful industry to the national defense have not arrested the plow, the shuttle, or the ship; the ax had enlarged the borders of our settlements, and the

mines, as well of iron and coal as of the precious metals, have yielded even more abundantly than heretofore. The population has steadily increased, notwithstanding the waste that has been made in the camp, the siege, and the battle-field; and the country, rejoicing in the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor, is permitted to expect continuance of years, with large increase of freedom.

No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things.

They are the gracious gifts of the Highest God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy.

It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and 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 next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to his tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility and Union.”

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

“I am the Lord, and I do not change;” Mal 3:6a **Heb 13:8**

Thank You for reading this story from
"A Collection of Short Letters", found at
www.PeaceAndGodWill.com

Here are some excerpts from other letters in that
collection:

What Does Peace And Goodwill Really Mean?

...the word originally used for "peace" was "shalom", which includes the English meaning but also means "wholeness", a sense of completeness that comes from having a relationship with God. A person trying to live without God has an incomplete understanding of what a person should be and could not enjoy a true and lasting peace.

...so the original two-word phrase "good will" in the book of Luke actually means Godly intentions or Godly character, not a person's idea of charity or mere thoughts of best wishes.

Freedom of Choice vs. Free Will to Choose

Free will is an attribute God gives to all people starting with Adam and Eve (even before the Fall). It includes mental tools like curiosity and imagination that we can use to help make decisions, and a conscience to help us determine proper and bad choices.

...If Jesus says "take my yoke and learn from me and I will give you rest" (Mat 11:29), He is saying something akin to IF you eat your broccoli THEN you can have some pie. FOC people ...assume that Jesus wants to give them pie, they don't even try to understand the broccoli part. FWTC people study the whole statement and realize that they are responsible for part of how to get the pie.

What Does "Believe" Mean In The Bible?

...so believing in something means living in it, abiding by it, staying true to it. ...like believing in what the Bible teaches about the sacrifice of Christ. In John 1:12-13 Jesus says that only believers can be a part of Him.

What Is The Bible?

The Bible is a collection of books and letters recording the history of persons and people of God, and others apart from God. It is a gift from our Creator that teaches us His ways of how to have a relationship with our own mind and body, with other Godly or ungodly people, and with God Himself. So the Bible is an owner's manual for how to be a human.

Consider the idea of a parent who knows they are going to die but has time to prepare a journal to give to their young child. At first the child sees it as just a souvenir to remember their lost parent. As they read it over time they learn that their parent is teaching them how to live a successful life.

The child is bonding to the book as a representation of the parent they cannot see face to face, so they love the book and want to spend time with it. They don't try to find

excuses to only see it but not read it. The value and love it represents isn't in the cover, it is in the contents. This is how followers of Christ should think of the Bible.

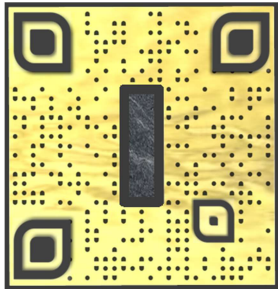
However a person cannot understand the Bible without God's help with interpreting it. Every person has a natural bias from their sin nature that causes them to want to see the interpretation that appeals to them instead of God's intention, and no person can always overcome that bias. Also the original revelations from God to the authors of the books (the "God Breathed" version) were recorded in their native language with all of it's word and phrase definitions and the cultural understanding of the times. All translations from the original, whether by a devoted individual or by careful consideration of a body of peers, are not inerrant and will have flaws for the following reasons:

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by Kevin@PeaceAndGodWill.com



Check out my guy
Kevin's great
Bible letters,
t-shirts, mugs & stuff-
he's the best! -Simba



<click or scan me!>



Love Flows
Downhill



The grace of God has appeared,
offering the gift of salvation to all

Titus 2:11

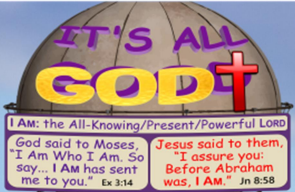


Pursue peace with everyone,
and holiness, for without it no
one will see the **LORD**

Heb 12:14

Let the peace of Christ rule
in your hearts, as members
of one body you were called

Col 3:15a

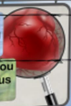


I AM: the All-Knowing/Present/Powerful LORD
God said to Moses,
"I Am Who I Am. So
say... I AM has sent
me to you." Ex 3:14
Jesus said to them,
"I assure you:
Before Abraham
was, I AM." Jn 8:58

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I, the LORD, search the heart,
to give to each man according
to his ways. Jer 17:10 SO...

Examine yourselves to see if you
are in the faith; to know if Jesus
Christ is in you. 2Cor 13:5



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Justified by faith, we have peace with
God through our Lord Jesus Christ Rom 5:1

Those
who love
God's
law have
great
peace
Ps 119:165

If you enjoyed this, please share it with others and send me a message! Kevin@PeaceAndGodWill.com