

4th. ~~Thanks giving~~  
R.S.V. 32;

There is a real basis for thanks giving but no sort of foundation, excuse, or reason for ingratitude. yet the devil has kept up his progress deception so perfectly that much of the race seems to feel that it has come grateful for unthankfulness. We need to turn our thoughts many times a year to our God and seeing Him as revealed through Jesus, get some conception of the reason for gratitude.

We are prone to utter our thanks giving for the fruits, grains and laps of plenty. We should be thankful for all these things and for the absence of famine, pestilence and many other things so dreadful to the race. But this is not the real basis for gratitude although such things should not be forgotten.

⇒ you know we are very popular with our own many times because we can drive the car, pay for the show, the drinks, and furnish a place to sleep and eat. A young man stood by his father's liver and said "It was he who sheltered me from the hard places in life. Now I must pay them for myself. We are thankful for the loaves and fishes. This is easy but does not furnish the real basis for gratitude.

We indeed should give thanks unto God who is the God of gods. not to god of our own making. We can have many gods. If we have desire for power to put something and for ourselves we pray to that kind of a god. If we want recognition we look to a god to put across our hate, if we are full of lust we form an immoral god. We may have a national god to whom we pray to help us defeat the other nation. The character of that nation may be branded every Sunday or every day praying to god for the same victory. Our gods may be just a magnification of our own selves. There are not the gods that deserve our thanks. Oh give thanks to the God of gods - the "unknown god" that Paul preached. We need to know the God of all and better, we do not need more religion.

we have too many, and too many, many people have been put to death - the name of religion - in any other name perhaps. But we do need more of the religion of the One God as it has been revealed through Jesus. yet this is not the real basis and only basis for thanksgiving. The One God might be the only God and yet be a mean God - a tyrant.

we say well because God is all powerful. This attribute is the real basis for our gratitude. He has power to protect us. we love our husbands because they protect us from the burglars and "harlots" at night. A husband may protect you at night and yet there may be so much cruelty and other bad traits that some how there does not well up in you but a sincere feeling of gratitude.

Some one else says, "well the real basis for gratitude is love". Now when I venture to say that, this is not the real basis of our gratitude some of you will rebel in your minds against the thought. you may say "God is love and it is the basis of all things - even the basis of our gratitude".

But love without another element or attribute of God might be partial, and the persons loved best might have the more faults but love would cover them up. people have been known to love and faults be hidden. But if some thing came around to hit that love a blow the fault would again appear. A young man never saw the make of his sweet heart's face until after he had popped the question and she had replied, "I love you only as a brother." He then saw the heretofore unseen make and it grew larger every day. Love might be partial.

Now the real basis for gratitude is God, what is it? It is written across the face of nature, it is written in the laws of God, it is seen in the life of Jesus, it

is radiant in the wind up of things. It is right here in Cant. 10. "Oh give thanks unto God, FOR He is good."

we may have our individual problems, disappointments, and sorrows. These may grow to national and international proportions but we can well be thankful that we know that back of all this there is a good God - The good God.

The good husband will protect his home - he will love his home he will provide for his home, he will look to the executing justice impartially in his home that the outcome - the carrying up of his home may be the best.

Then let us repeat that it is not the power and riches - drinking of power, or love which forms real happiness, thanksgiving but it is all these shot through with the eternal fact of the genuine goodness of God which executes all these other things and in the fairest and the best way.

