

# Citizen's Courier

## HAPPY THANKSGIVING!



First and foremost, I am wishing you all a happy Thanksgiving tomorrow, or whenever you celebrate it. As you partake of a sumptuous meal with family and/or friends while enjoying one another's company (at least I hope you do), please take some time to remember God, our Creator, the ultimate provider for the abundance we all enjoy in this once great nation.

In Deuteronomy 15:4-6, God tells the Israelites, "However, there should be no poor among you, for in the land the Lord your God is giving you to possess as your inheritance, he will richly bless you, if only you fully obey the Lord your God and are careful to follow all these commands I am giving you today. For the Lord your God will bless you as he has promised, and you will lend to many nations but will borrow from none. You will rule over many nations but none will rule over you."

While the USA is not the land of promise as God here is promising the Jews (which will still be fulfilled in the Kingdom when King Jesus will rule from Jerusalem with a rod of iron), I believe He has graciously and without specific conditions (as with the Jews in the Old Testament) richly blessed the United States of America with opportunity and abundance for all. To date, we have been the world's richest nation, lending to many other nations and borrowing from none. We have been, and still are, the world's primary

breadbasket. I believe because our founding fathers acknowledged that our blessings as well as our unalienable rights come from THE CREATOR OF ALL CREATION, and thereby established our laws and principles on Judeo-Christian principles, therefore we have been uniquely blessed by Our Creator. As such, He is deserving of our praise as well as our thanksgiving, not only tomorrow but every day.

Also, in Deuteronomy 8:10-18, the Lord warns Israel (and us vicariously in my opinion): When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the good land he has given you. Be careful that you do not forget the Lord your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees.... Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, then your heart will become proud and you will forget the Lord your God, .... You may say to yourself, "My power and strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth....

While I fear that our nation as a world power has come to this position of believing we ourselves have created our abundance, our wealth, and our power apart from God, I urge at least this group to whom I am writing not to

succumb to the views of the world. Instead, do what is right and give thanks to God our Creator and to His Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, God in human form, the one who died on the cross as the only acceptable sacrifice for our sins that can fully reconcile us to a loving but absolutely holy God.

Finally, encourage others to remember God's admonition to the Jews in Deuteronomy 7:9-10 (that also I believe applies to us a nation): Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands. But those who hate him he will repay to their face by destruction; he will not be slow to repay to their face those who hate him.

What a wonderful promise of blessing coupled to an absolutely dreadful alternative. Let us not fall into the latter even as our nation seems to be doing. May you all enjoy your celebrations of thanksgiving this year, each year, and each day.

In His inestimable love,

Don Shrader