

# CHRISTMAS THANKSGIVING

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AS WE NEAR THE TIME of Christmas we are filled with the spirit of giving gifts to our friends and relatives. I believe we should also be full of the true spirit of thanksgiving as well. For on Christmas, that day on which we commemorate the birth of our Lord, we have most to be thankful for of all the gifts ever given to us.

Did it ever occur to you that it would be terribly lonely on earth if there were no God and you knew that you had nothing to trust in but yourself? The world does not love you, but it loves what you have. Chance would rule and determine whether or not you would live tomorrow. There would be nothing to give justice, nothing to keep right above wrong. But we all know there is a true and merciful God that watches over the works of His hand. Therefore we have all for which to be thankful.

You remember that after the flood God said, "My spirit will not always strive with man," and from that time He let man go his own way. Indeed He chose out a people, Israel, for himself, but the world was like those which Paul spoke of in Ephesians 2 :12: "At that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world."

If we did not have Christ, we would have no hope and be without God in the world, for it is through Christ that we may approach the Father. But we have Christ as our Mediator between us and God, who has promised us all things if we will only come to Him and ask. Through Christ the grace of God is greater than our finite minds may comprehend. God's mercy and forgiveness are unbounded, for if the sins that we commit daily were held against us, we would not even be worthy to call on His holy name. Each day, when we ask, we are forgiven for the many little things that we do that are contrary to the will of God.

Therefore let us be exceedingly thankful for Christ, for it is through Him that we may come to our Father for the blessings, and it is His great sacrifice that makes us free from sin and heirs of God's kingdom.

