



FRANKLIN ROAD

baptist church

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AFTER THE FEAST



WITH THANKSGIVING JUST TWO DAYS AWAY, I'M WONDERING ABOUT YOUR PLANS. YOU MAY NOT HAVE AS MANY PEOPLE GATHERED AROUND YOUR TABLE, AND PROBABLY DON'T NEED A HUGE TURKEY. BUT WHAT ABOUT AFTER THE MEAL, WHAT THEN? WILL YOU CONGRATULATE THE COOK, DECLARE THAT YOU'VE EATEN WAY TOO MUCH, GO FOR A WALK, TAKE A NAP OR TURN ON A FOOTBALL GAME? MAYBE YOU'LL DO ALL OF THESE BUT HOPEFULLY NOT FORGET THE THANKSGIVING ESSENTIAL MENTIONED IN DEUTERONOMY 8:10. "WHEN YOU HAVE EATEN AND ARE SATISFIED, YOU SHALL BLESS THE LORD YOUR GOD FOR THE GOOD LAND WHICH HE HAS GIVEN YOU." AFTER THE FEAST THERE NEEDS TO BE THANKS.

WITH A THREE-DAY EVENT THE PILGRIMS CELEBRATED THE FIRST AMERICAN THANKSGIVING IN OCTOBER OF 1621. THEY HAD A WONDERFUL FEAST BUT MOSTLY WORSHIPPED THEIR WONDERFUL GOD. IN 1863 PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN PROCLAIMED A NATIONAL DAY OF THANKSGIVING AT THE END OF NOVEMBER IN ORDER TO "PRAISE OUR BENEFICENT FATHER WHO DWELLS IN THE HEAVENS." PILGRIMS AND PRESIDENTS WERE NOT SO CONCERNED ABOUT FEASTS BUT WERE PRIMARILY FOCUSED ON GOD, AND SO TOO SHOULD WE.

WE ARE CALLED UPON TO BLESS THE LORD. THIS IS TO REMIND US THAT OUR FOOD, FEASTS AND THINGS DO NOT COME TO US BECAUSE OF OUR EFFORTS BUT BECAUSE OF GOD'S FAVOR. BLESSING GOD IS LITERALLY THE IDEA OF ADORING ON BENDED KNEE. PSALM 95:6 STATES, "COME, LET US WORSHIP AND BOW DOWN, LET US KNEEL BEFORE THE LORD OUR MAKER." THIS IS WHAT THE WISEMEN DID AT CHRIST'S CRADLE. (MATTHEW 2:11).

DEUTERONOMY 8:10 INDICATES THAT THE REASON FOR THE RESPONSE OF BLESSING THE LORD IS BECAUSE OF THE GOOD LAND GIVEN BY GOD. CERTAINLY, THE ISRAELITES UNDERSTOOD THAT AFTER WANDERING IN A DESERT WASTELAND FOR FORTY YEARS, WHAT THEY WERE RECEIVING WAS FAR BETTER. THIS PASSAGE ENCOURAGES THEM TO REFLECT ON THIS AND THEREBY PROPERLY RESPOND. BUT WHAT ABOUT US? DO WE NOT HAVE A GOOD LAND FOR WHICH TO GIVE THANKS? THOUGH WE HAVE COVID AND CHAOS, WE HAVE A GREAT LAND. BLESS GOD FOR OUR ROADWAYS, OUR RESOURCES, AND OUR RICHES.

SO, LET'S ENJOY OUR THANKSGIVING MEALS ON THURSDAY, BUT NOT FORGET THAT AFTER THE FEAST GOD EXPECTS OUR THANKS.

LOOKING UP!

PASTOR CHUCK CIRCLE