

THANKSGIVING DAY— ITS TRUE MEANING

What should Thanksgiving Day mean to Americans — and especially to Christians? What are the consequences of ingratitude? This article explains.

by Dennis G. Luker

IF YOU are an average American, you will enjoy a delicious turkey dinner with all the trimmings on Thanksgiving Day. You will enjoy this fabulous banquet in a warm and comfortable home equipped with many modern conveniences. You may watch a football game on television — possibly in full color.

If you are an average American, you are tremendously blessed! But are you thankful? Or do you take your blessings for granted and assume you will always have them?

The First Thanksgiving

The first “Thanksgiving Day” originated with the festival held by

Plymouth Colony in December 1621, in gratitude for a successful harvest. The Pilgrims from England had landed at Plymouth Rock in December 1620 and had endured a hard year. On that first “Thanksgiving Day” they thanked God they were still alive and had food to eat. The Pilgrims recognized *God* as the *source* of their blessings. They held that first “Thanksgiving Day” in gratitude and praise *to God*. Many Americans have forgotten this. Many probably

Traditional American Thanksgiving dinner with friends and relatives. A day to consider and express gratitude for divine blessings.

don't even *think* of God on Thanksgiving Day much less actually *pray* to Him and give *thanks*.

For too many Americans, Thanksgiving Day has become just another holiday on which friends and family come together to glut themselves with *too much* food and drink. God is left out of the picture. He is not acknowledged as the source of all blessings — yet, the Bible, God's inspired Word, says, “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning” (James 1:17). Christ Himself said, speaking of God the Father, “He makes his sun to rise on the evil and on

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