Give Thanks Unto The Lord

BY REV. B. L. RAINES Pastor First Baptist Church

call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people. Sing talk ye of all his wondrous name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord. Seek the Lord, and his strength; seek his I love you mother, said little face evermore." (Psalm 105:1-4)

'What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me? I will offer to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will swept the floor call upon the name of the Lord." Bathed the baby and asked to do

(Psalm 116:12, 17.) Love and gratitude are not That night when all the prayers mere emotions and sentiment, but attitudes which we may express in very definite ways. The The children quiet and tucked in late President, John F. Kennedy had this to say on Thanksgiving: "Today we give our thanks, most of all, for the ideals of honor and faith we inherit from our forefathers-for the decency of purpose, steadfastness of resolve and strength of will, for the courage and humility, which they possessed and which we must seek every day to emulate. As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words but to live by them." Remember the poem that goes

"I love you mother; said Little

I love you more than tongue can Then she fretted and pouted the

Till her mother was glad when she ran to play. I love you mother said little

whole long day,

"O give thanks unto the Lord; Then forgetting his work, his cap went on

swing. works. Glory ye in his holy Leaving his mother, the wood to

Today I'll help you all I can So she washed the dishes and

were said

bed.

Which of the three children would you guess

Really loved mother the very

(Author Unknown) Giving thanks is easy, but living thanks is difficult and rare. Is God pleased with our "Thank you" on the fourth Thursday in November if we are to forget about him the remainder of the year? Are we ever truly praying prayers of Thanksgiving unless we are willing to let God use us to help answer those prayers by translating them into blessings and Thanksgiving for others?

I. THANKSGIVING THROUGH PRAYER. Note the words "O give thanks, call upon his name." We are challenged to pray and this is one way of saying. "Thank You." But our prayer and our Thanksgiving need to be intelligent. God is not a signed blank check or a mail order catalog, to be used regardless of our motives. Thanksgiving based on the attitude that God has been good to me may be shallow and not worthy of God.

We are to thank God for the thorns as well as for the flowers; for defeats as well as victories. "In everything give thanks."

THANKSGIVING THROUGH DEEDS, "Make known his deeds among the people" Thanksgiving is positive. In the accounts of the first American Thanksgiving, the Pilgrims didn't fret because they had lost half of their number Their Thanksgiving was straight forward and spontaneous. True Thanksgiving is translated into Thanks-living. It is not enoug for a lad to merely say, "Thank You" in words only, for his education and opportunities. The real-thank-you-comes when he develops into the right kind of man. We say, "Thank You" to God with fruits, with the right kind of lives. We read of some early Christians, "They first gave themselves unto God." Par ents can best say, "thank you" by trying to rear fine families and sinners can do the same by repentance and right living

Margaret Applegarth, in her book, "Men As Trees Walking," tells of a Chinese legend of a rich merchant who was saved from drowning by a poor rice farmer. Every year the rich merchant would return to the poor farmer's home to express his thanks and to burn incense unto

his gods. One year the poor ri farmer had a very sick child who desperately needed some ex pensive herbs that he might be ared. He suggested to the rich merchant that he could possibly show his thanks for saving his life by helping secure this medicine for the son of his benefactor. The merchant became very ingry as he said, "See here, I have come back to thank you or saving my life and to offer sac rifice to the gods in your behalf."

Another year, the poor rice farmer's wife was without a coaunto him, sing psalms unto him: And he was off to the garden to keep her warm in the severe cold winter. As the merchant returned to the farmer's home for ais annual Thanksgiving, he was asked to help in this emerger Said he, "Do you think I would interrupt my ritual of Thanks curing a coat?" And with this he giving for a lowly matter like sewent on burning his lecence How genuine and deep Phanksgiving spirit? For the sake of ourselves, our families our country; For God's sake an for Christ's sake, may we tranlate our Thanksgiving Int THANKS-LIVING.

KISSIN' KIN

Two friends met on the street one afternoon and the first commented: "So your girl friend jilt ed you when you told her about your rich uncle?"

"Yes, now she's my aunt." N. C. Education



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