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What do you know about Thanksgiving?



Thanksgiving weekend has arrived. People are traveling and gathering, food is being prepared and anticipated.

What is Thanksgiving about? Let's see how we do with a few questions about our Canadian Thanksgiving that I found. If you need them, the answers are at the end of this printed version, which is on the website, and in the details on the podcast version.

1. When did Thanksgiving become an official national holiday?
2. In which month was Thanksgiving first celebrated as a national holiday?
3. How much does the average commercial turkey produced in Canada weigh?
4. How many cranberries does British Columbia produce each year?
5. In which provinces is Thanksgiving not a statutory holiday?
6. In addition to color, how do people check to see if cranberries are ready to be harvested?
7. Which observance shared a date with Canadian Thanksgiving from 1921 to 1931?

Let's review some basics about thanksgiving for God's people from the Bible.

The first thing to remember is that thanksgiving is not a periodic holiday, but is to be a continual part of our life.

The people of Israel had thank offerings which were voluntary expressions of thankfulness and praise to God for His goodness, often for God answering their prayers, for protecting or delivering them from a difficult time. It was one kind of peace offering, and is described in Leviticus chapter 7. In Psalm 56 David vowed to present thanksgiving offerings to God when God saved his life. Several other Psalm writers call on people to offer thanksgiving offerings and record their promise to offer a thanksgiving offering after difficult circumstances (Psalm 107, 116).

While thanksgiving offerings were voluntary, they were directed, as we see in Psalm 50 verse 14, "Offer God a sacrifice of thanksgiving and pay your vows to the Most High."

In the New Testament, and church age, thankfulness continues to be an expression of gratitude to God for who He is and what He does. It should be a genuine and sincere expression from our heart to God. God directs us to give Him thanks.

Let's recall and then you can take time on your own to reflect on just a handful of familiar verses.

- 1 Corinthians chapter 15 verse 56-57, "The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the Law; but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."
- Ephesians chapter 5 verse 20, "always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to our God and Father."
- Philippians chapter 4 verses 6 and 7, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and pleading with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."
- Colossians chapter 3 verse 17, "Whatever you do in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father."
- 1 Thessalonians chapter 5 verses 16-18, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus."

Now is the time, all the time is the time to give thanks to God!

Pastor Lyle

Answers:

1. November 6, 1879
2. November
3. 8.0 kilograms (17.6 pounds)
4. About 1.08 million barrels (or roughly 48.6 million kilograms / 108 million pounds)
5. Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia
6. The bounce test: Ripe cranberries contain small internal air chambers. Farmers drop a berry onto a hard surface or use a mechanical bounce board; if it bounces well, it has the right air pockets and is ready to pick.
7. Armistice Day (now Remembrance Day)