

*For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we see light.*

*Psalm 36:9*

# *the* LifeWord

with Michael Green



November 28, 2008

Dear Friends:

## **IT'S THANKSGIVING, CHARLIE BROWN!**

In 1621, after a bitter winter of death and despair, the surviving Pilgrims declared a three day celebration. They were grateful to be alive and decked out in their hats and the shoes with the buckles on top, invited the Indians over and gave thanks, to God.

In 1789, George Washington, in further commemoration, encouraged people to observe a special time of thanksgiving, to God.

In 1863, Abraham Lincoln delivered the national *"Thanksgiving Proclamation"*. It was official, Thanksgiving was now capitalized. It was time to give thanks, to God!

He wrote, "No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath never the less remembered mercy...I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States...to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November as a day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens".

I'm just glad he got to sneak this through before the political climate and secular, anti-God sentiments of today gained foothold in the process. Ole Abe would have been met with derision and disdain or likely just dismissed as a nut. How arrogant of him to bring his God into our holiday. After all, we wouldn't want to offend the other gods hanging around. And what about the damage to little Timmy's psyche if the class reads something from that scary Bible?

Yeah, it's now called Fall Break and our words of wisdom proudly come from the *"Twilight"* teen vampire or the latest gender confused *"famous person"*.

King David had a few Thanksgiving Proclamations of his own:

*"Oh, let us give thanks unto the Lord!*

*"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord.*

*"I will talk with the voice of Thanksgiving."*

*"I will praise Him and magnify Him with Thanksgiving."*

*"Enter His gates with Thanksgiving."*

*"I will offer up the sacrifice of Thanksgiving."*

Thanksgiving, it should be the core character trait of the Child of God; real gratitude, from deep in the heart. King David and President Lincoln had it right.

So, before your easy chair coma, after shoveling that last spoonful of sweet potato casserole or hoping that the Lions can finally get that long awaited win, find that quiet place and say, *"Thank You, God"*.

Sometimes we make lots of noise for some celebrational moment but during this Thanksgiving time, I find myself a bit more moved by the stunningly simplistic sentiment penned by Bill and Gloria, *"Jesus, we just want to thank you. Thank you for being so good"*.

Happy Thanksgiving!

*Michael*

