

Thank you God for people who remind me of the Scriptural checks and balances I should live by

“Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. Bear one another’s burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.” (Galatians 6:1-2 NASB)

“For it is written, As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.’ So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God.” (Romans 14:11-12 NASB)

When it is *our* turn to “give an account of [ourselves] to God,” it should be our prayer that no one we leave behind *knew* that we were headed in the wrong direction yet failed to make *any* attempt to alter our path. Allowing someone whom we love to be condemned to eternal punishment with no effort on our part to *change* that sentence, is the *ultimate* lack of love.

Thank you God for the freedoms I have in this country that have been preserved for me through the sacrifice of others

We stand as a Nation that is strong and deserving of praise. Yet we are humbled, because we remember that the wealth of this Nation’s heritage, the strength of its ideals, and the extent of its freedom came with a tremendous price.

These treasures were purchased with the lives of American service men and women, a cost borne prominently by several generations. We are humbled because so many bright futures, hopes, and dreams were sacrificed for the abundance of opportunities we now freely pursue.

— <http://l1erah.com/sacrifices.htm>

Our Nation *has* changed drastically from those historic early days. Throughout all of those years however, there has never been such strong, and often successful efforts to completely remove God from our Nation as there is afoot today. There is growing *intolerance* for religion as well as a demand *for tolerance* of sin. There has been much suffering, many wars and incredible pain and sorrow endured by those who have made America what it is today and preserved our freedoms for us. As Christians, we not only enjoy *those* freedoms offered in our Nation but also freedom from our sins because of Christ’s sacrifice on the cross. This year — as we celebrate Thanksgiving Day, may we all remember to give thanks for not only the roses in our lives but also the thorns of suffering and pain.

“Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears our burden, The God who is our salvation.” (Psalm 68:19 NASB)

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DILIGENCE

“We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, in order to make your hope sure.” — Hebrews 6:11

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Thanksgiving

“Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” (I Thess. 5: 16-17 NASB)

Depending on the source one uses, there are a variety of accounts as to when the first *official* Thanksgiving Day took place. Most of us have been taught that it was the Pilgrims who first celebrated a day of Thanksgiving and feasting. In 1777 — during the Revolutionary War, the Continental Congress issued a Proclamation establishing Thanksgiving Day as a *National* Holiday. *That* Proclamation called for a day of Thanksgiving to be recognized on December 18th. However, despite several *other* early proclamations — including one by George Washington in 1789, official Thanksgiving observances usually occurred *only* at the State level. Then in 1862, Abraham Lincoln set aside the last Thursday of November as a *national* Day of Thanksgiving. Over the next seventy-five years, President after President followed Lincoln’s precedent by *annually* declaring a national Thanksgiving Day. The specific day however varied somewhat from year to year. Then, in 1941, Congress *permanently* established the fourth Thursday of each November as a Federal Thanksgiving Day holiday.

Our Nation has changed drastically from those historic early days. It has even changed drastically since 1941 when Congress finally settled on the fourth Thursday of November as the official date for Thanksgiving Day.

Many in our Nation now completely reject God — even deny His existence and protest *loudly* for the *removal* of anything referencing God in *any* public place or document. This Nation has drifted quite far from the words of that original Proclamation issued by the Continental Congress in 1777.

“FORASMUCH as it is the indispensable Duty of all Men to adore the superintending Providence of Almighty God; to acknowledge with Gratitude their Obligation to him for Benefits received, and to implore such farther Blessings as they stand in Need of: . . . It is therefore recommended to the legislative or executive Powers of these UNITED STATES to set apart THURSDAY, the eighteenth Day of December next, for SOLEMN THANKSGIVING and PRAISE: That at one Time and with one Voice, the good People may express the grateful Feelings of their Hearts, and consecrate themselves to the Service of their Divine Benefactor; . . . That it may please him graciously to afford his Blessing on the Governments of these States respectively, and prosper

the public Council of the whole: . . . and to prosper the Means of Religion, for the promotion and enlargement of that Kingdom, which consisteth “in Righteousness, Peace and Joy in the Holy Ghost.” And it is further recommended, That servile Labor, and such Recreation, as, though at other Times innocent, may be unbecoming the Purpose of this Appointment, be omitted on so solemn an Occasion.”

It is quite clear that those who created this document believed in Almighty God as well as man’s duty to give thanks to Him “for Benefits received...”

As Christians, we often thank God for *our* “benefits received.” The first and most important gift for which we are thankful is of course the sacrifice of God’s own Son. For it is through His death on the cross that we even *have access* to God. So in addition to that *obvious* gift for which we are thankful, there are all of the normal — or common — things that we regularly include in our prayers of thanksgiving. Things like food, health, families, jobs, as well as other similar blessings. But there are some *other* things for which we might also want to consider regularly expressing our thanksgiving to God. For example —

Thank you God for the times of sorrow.

“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.”
(Psalm 23:4 NASB)

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God..”
(Philippians 4:6 ESV)

Sometimes life seems hard to bear, full of sorrow, trouble and woe
It’s then I have to remember that it’s in the valleys I grow.

If I always stayed on the mountain top and never experienced pain,
I would never appreciate God’s love and would be living in vain.

Thank you for valleys, Lord for this one thing I know

The mountain tops are glorious but it’s in the valleys I grow!

— Jane Eggleston via <http://lerrah.com/dreams.htm>

Thank you God for challenges in my life

“Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.” (James 1:2-4 NASB)

“Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me — to keep me from exalting myself! Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me. And He has said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.’ Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.” (II Cor. 12:7-9 NASB)

A man found a cocoon of a butterfly. One day a small opening appeared. He sat and watched the butterfly for several hours as it struggled to force its body through that little hole. Then it seemed to stop making any progress. It appeared as if it had gotten as far as it could, and it could go no further.

So the man decided to help the butterfly. He took a pair of scissors and snipped off the remaining bit of the cocoon. The butterfly then emerged easily. But it had a swollen body and small, shriveled wings.

The man continued to watch the butterfly because he expected that, at any moment, the wings would enlarge and expand to be able to support the body, which would contract in time. Neither happened! In fact, the butterfly spent the rest of its life crawling around with a swollen body and shriveled wings. It never was able to fly.

What the man, in his kindness and haste, did not understand was that the restricting cocoon and the struggle required for the butterfly to get through the tiny opening were God’s way of forcing fluid from the body of the butterfly into its wings so that it would be ready for flight once it achieved its freedom from the cocoon.

Sometimes struggles are exactly what we need in our lives. If God allowed us to go through our lives without any obstacles, it would cripple us. We would not be as strong as what we could have been. We could never fly!

— <http://lerrah.com/thebutterfly.htm>

Thank you God for people who care enough to confront and correct me when I’m wrong.

“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;” (II Tim. 3:16 NASB)

“Whoever heeds discipline shows the way to life, but whoever ignores correction leads others astray.” (Proverbs 10:17 NIV)

“Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but whoever hates correction is stupid.” (Proverbs 12:1 NIV)

“Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.” (James 5:16 NASB)

Real love for another *always* necessitates honesty when error is involved. *Selective* honesty is not honesty at all. Good relationships consist of two-way communications. To love another — and to *be* loved — is to invite, support and protect that individuals right to be heard. A relationship is only as good as its honest two-way communications.