

# TURKEY DAY?

We are increasingly hearing references to thanksgiving as “Turkey Day.” While many will be feasting on turkey this week, although perhaps in fewer numbers due to the pandemic, we should be reminding ourselves that this day is not a day to honor this delicious bird, but a day in which we remember our blessings and give thanks to the Giver of “every good and perfect gift” (James 1:17).

The road to degradation and ruin begins with forgetting the divine source of life’s blessings. The apostle Paul wrote, “When they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful...” (Romans 1:21a). In verse 25 he charged that such “worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator.” The blessings God gives us must not be allowed to displace the Blessor. When that happens, our thankless hearts become fountains of all iniquity, as seen in the context Thankful hearts, however, become fountains of righteousness as we seek to express our thankfulness with love and loyalty to our Creator and Benefactor. Hebrews 13:15-16 reads: “By Him (Christ), let us offer up the sacrifices of praise to God continually: that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.”

While we are troubled by many situations in our nation and the world in general, including the COVID-19 pandemic, and possibly may not be celebrating the occasion as we generally would do, yet we are encouraged, even in troublesome times, by Paul’s words to Christians even suffering persecution: “*In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God concerning you*” (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

--Ron