



Thanksgiving 2020 - A Perspective

2020 has been an unprecedented year to put it mildly. Everything started out okay, but things quickly went south, starting with Impeachment proceedings against our President at the same time we first heard about a novel coronavirus coming from China. Things quickly got worse from there. We all know about the nightmare we've endured these past 8 months, with lockdowns, fear mongering and a radical change in the way we live our lives. To top it all off, we have a contested Presidential election with an outcome that is anyone's guess. How far we have fallen!

Our Great Nation and the whole world are in peril, but we as Americans are up to the task of getting things back on track. If America's good people stand up and speak up for righteousness and Goodness, we will prevail. We need to put The Lord back into the center of our society, return to a moral code of goodness and obedience to the Judeo-Christian values our country was founded upon and put aside our righteous indignation and "Love our neighbors as ourselves." Booker T. Washington once said *"A lie doesn't become truth, wrong doesn't become right, and evil doesn't become good just because it's accepted by a majority."*



America has been blessed by God from the very beginning. But it is my belief that unless we repent as a Nation, turn away from evil, and seek His forgiveness, we will be doomed. 2 Chronicles 7:14 says that very thing: *"if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."*

There exists a desire by a radical movement in this country to turn away from our founding principles and embrace Globalism, casting aside our Constitution, our Bill of Rights and the Liberty we enjoy as Americans for a one world government, where we become citizens of a world with no borders, no national identity and a forfeiture of our God-given inalienable rights, no personal property, no family units. The State will take our children and educate them with their approved belief system and they will be directed to a profession decided by The State.

But that doesn't have to become reality. Thanksgiving is one of many Traditions we enjoy in America, where Family comes together in fellowship, around the table and we reflect upon our blessings. We need to have more of these types of interactions, where we share the proud heritage of our families and our Nation's founding principles and pass on our sense of national



pride and patriotism to our children. It is up to each of us to ensure that the next generation understands why America is the beacon of Freedom and Liberty for the whole world and why we should be proud to be Americans and not ashamed. They need to know about the men and women who sacrificed it all, even unto death, for the Freedoms we enjoy today. This can



not be taught on the few holiday get-togethers we have each year though. We need to return to the tradition of sharing a nightly meal at the dinner table, without cell phones, TV, or social media. A time when we can talk as a family about our day, our victories and challenges, and share our faith, our common family values and perspectives and why we believe what we believe so our children gain a deep understanding of our family's legacy.

America is not without its problems, but it is still the best country in the history of the world. We have made mistakes and we will continue to do so, but we recognize those mistakes, and in humility we change, we try new approaches, we learn, and we get better. Our children are being deceived by wolves in sheep's clothing and it's up to us to teach them to recognize the wolves by their fruits. The world is full of evil people who tell you what you want to hear but bear bad fruit in their lives. We need to teach them that life is full of adversity and it's hard, but the rewards are great if you do it the right way. Don't let people deceive you with words that tickle your ears. Look at what they produce in their lives and judge accordingly. This task is much easier if they already know who they are and where they came from, which is our job to teach them as parents and grandparents. Ronald Reagan got it right when he said *"The leadership of the free world was thrust upon us two centuries ago...We are indeed, and we are today, the last best hope of man on earth."*

The bible teaches us to enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. In other words, choosing the easy path will take you where you don't want to go in life.



Thanksgiving is a time to give thanks to God for our blessings, from the smallest to the greatest. But it's also a time of reflection, when we assess where we are and what we need to do to get better. Are we going in the right direction or not?

**Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father
in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
~ Ephesians 5:20**

What can we do as individuals to preserve our rich heritage for future generations? What do we need to change? What can we not allow to change? Every generation is faced with these challenges and history will judge how we did.

I am thankful That I live in a Free society where I can openly worship my Lord and fellowship with like-minded believers without fear of reprisal. I am thankful for my family, my home, my ability to pursue my dreams and through hard work, determination and denying myself on



the short term can yield success in the long run. I am thankful for our Law enforcement, our communities, the brave men and women in the military who keep us safe. I am thankful for my health, the great medical care we have available and the freedom to travel, go to a restaurant with friends and family and go to a store and get pretty much anything I want, any time I want. I am thankful that I can contribute to our great society and that I provide value to my customers, who appreciate my efforts as much as I appreciate their patronage.

I love youth sports, music recitals, camping trips, fishing, gardening, coin collecting and a great bottle of wine. I look forward to the weekends, when I can sleep in, or get up early and go on a hike or cycling or boating at my discretion. I love my children, their spouses and my granddaughter and can't wait to see her grow up and do all the fun things we did with her dad when he grew up. I look forward to enjoying a meal with friends, buying gifts for people I love and volunteering for worthy causes.

I Love America; The America I grew up in and the America we will leave for future generations. This America is worth protecting though. Otherwise, it won't be around anymore. I was taught that our job as a generation is to leave a better America for future generations by denying ourselves now for the good of our children. Deneen Borelli said it best *"Our country does not guarantee you success, but liberty guarantees you the opportunity to succeed."*



Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings.

~ Author Unknown

So as tough as 2020 has been, we still have countless blessings, a loving God and hope for the future in The Land of The Free and The Home of The Brave. We are not going to give up; we are going to continue to fight to preserve our proud heritage as Americans, each and every one of us. We are going to have a blessed Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Then we will press on into 2021, trusting in God to protect and Bless us as we do our best to make America better and better for those who come behind us and fight against those who seek to destroy her.

May God Bless you and your Families this Thanksgiving and May God Bless and Protect The United States of America!

Sincerely,
Mark Peabody

