

Family



Research Council

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*"I came that they might have life, and have it more abundantly."
-John 10:10 KJV*

Dear Friend:

Thanksgiving could be called the season of abundant life. What a special time of year -- with autumn colors changing, leaves falling, mist in the valleys and on the hills, footballs whirring through the air, houses brimming with family and friends. I have always had a special love for the month of November, exactly because it is a time of abundant life, a gateway to Christmas and its even richer spiritual storehouse.

You probably know the old song that recommends falling asleep not by counting sheep but by counting your blessings. For Americans, that attitude has always been enshrined in our celebration of Thanksgiving, a holiday that dates from colonial days. Americans have always been clear about Whom is to be thanked -- and why we owe Him a debt of thanks, no matter how strong or weak the economy.

I remember clearly the Thanksgivings of my youth. My family lived in a rough-and-tumble city called Newport, Kentucky. It was a gritty place (it still is), with street after street of red brick row houses filled with blue-collar working families. By today's standards, my family didn't own much, but what we did have we were grateful for -- after the Second World War, people were grateful just to have peace, to be with family, and to have a chance to go back to school and earn a living.

The Great Depression was still very much on the minds of my parents and neighbors. They were survivors -- thankful survivors. Even though they had only life's essentials, they knew, deep in their hearts, they were rich in the things that mattered most -- family, friendships and the privilege to be able to live in a land of freedom. They knew God had granted these blessings -- not because of something they had done to earn them, but because of His boundless favor.

Today, as President of Family Research Council, I have the opportunity to travel this great country and talk with men, women and children of all ages. In recent weeks I have visited