

Benefits to be Thankful for Told in Sermon for Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving sermon delivered this evening at the union services at the Christian church:

(By Rev. Allan McRea)

Subject: "Forgotten Benefits." Text, 103 Psalm, verse 2. "Bless the Lord, O my soul and forget not all his benefits."

A few years ago a young man was in a hospital in Alaska. By some injury to his brain he had forgotten his name, his home, his friends and who he was. The doctor treating him somehow discovered that his former home had been in Tillamook and wrote to one of our doctors here asking if any young man of the community was missing. Our doctor replied with the name of the only young man that he knew was absent and in Alaska and the name he suggested was the true name of that young man. The pathetic thing about this young man is that he attempted to commit a crime in our town last spring and has been sent to the State's prison for three years.

Another young man, a son of a minister was in an army corps during the European war, being trained ready to be sent to France. Suddenly he disappeared from the camp and was listed as a deserter. His name stood upon the records of the nation in disgrace. But that young man saw a chance to get to France by a shot cut so he reenlisted under an assumed name. He was sent to the front line trenches and amid bursting shell and machine gun fire heroically played the part of a man. But he was wounded in the head, all his memory of the past was forgotten. He no longer knew his real name, his home or his friends. He finally was discovered by some one who knew him in the old days, restored to home and friends, and his desertion at the Army training camp forgiven.

Cases of Amnesia

These two young men were cases of what is called amnesia in the terms of medical science. They had forgotten the past.

Upon this 300th anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrim Fathers upon New England's shores it is peculiarly fitting and appropriate that we should not forget the benefits of Almighty God for us and for our great nation during the past.

Forgotten benefits from God, why it is so easy to forget any divine favors, and not a few would say what has God done for us? Forgotten benefits, no rich gifts of natural resources bestowed upon us as a favored nation. No benefits lavished upon us with bounteous hand unseen. No divine loving care shaping and moulding the history of this American empire where men are free to work out their own destiny. No divine power stretched out to ward off the dangers which threaten us as a people. No divine benefits to be grateful for and nothing to be thankful about, that is benefits forgotten.

We dislike to be under obligation to any one. It is human nature to wish to be independent of everything and everybody. The most of us dislike to go to any one and ask a personal favor which will place us under any obligation. It somehow hurts our pride and takes away something of our own self esteem. We hate to feel that what we have and what we are we owe to any human being upon the face of the earth. Not only that, but we try to minimize the obligation which we owe to the Almighty Himself for all his benefits. We are not always ready to appreciate the eternal sacrifice of Jesus Christ for us on the cross that He might redeem us and save.

Humility Held Required

Thankfulness does indicate obligation for favors rendered. It does indicate that we have received gifts, services, benefits for which we have not given full value in return. It takes humility to be devoutly thankful and humility irks us and wounds our pride.

Yes, we are usually thankful for a fine Thanksgiving dinner, at least the men are, there is no doubt of that. We are like the little boy at a big Thanksgiving dinner who ate chicken and turkey, and cake and pie until everybody began to wonder where he could find room to stow so much food. Finally a man spoke up and said "My boy if you eat so much, you'll make your stomach ache." To which the boy replied promptly "I tell you it does ache, and I expect to make the old thing ache a lot more before I'm done with it."

No Benefits Seen

The great reason we forget all the benefits of the Almighty is simply because we do not see any benefits from Him. We are all honest and we pay our honest debts, if we could, but the fact is we do not feel under any great indebtedness to God. We may deny it if we will but nevertheless it's true.

Perhaps much of our forgetting is because our eyes are blinded to God's favors and benefits. We can easily see the things which we dislike, but it is not so easy to see what we do like. It is so easy to see the shadows and to forget the sunshine. It is so easy to see the evil and at the same time what is wrong with the world and everybody, but it is not so easy to see the wondrous beauty and glory of the world and men.

A man was in Rome one time and he greatly wished to see that famous painting, "The Last Judgment" by Michael Angelo. He was so anxious to see the picture that he left his hotel that first night and sought the place where it could be found. But he met with a disappointment which staggered him. The

painting was being cleaned by a man upon a long ladder holding a lantern, and all he could see was the little bit of painting lit up by the lantern's light. Here he saw the angel's head, but beside it he saw the grinning face of a demon. There he saw a limb unattached to a human body, then a grotesque body without head or limbs came into sight. There was no harmony or beauty in that painting surely. How could it ever have received such a reputation for greatness, when it was really so hideous and ugly. The man returned to his hotel in disgust.

Picture Is Enchanting

But the next morning he was strangely drawn to look once more at that picture. But when his eyes saw it he was enchanted by its harmony and beauty. He seemed to live amid that scene of divine power and manifest glory. The light streamed within the room from the stained glass windows in soft radiant colors making the man almost think he was in heaven. What made the great difference? That first night he saw the picture as the artist never intended that it should be seen. He saw only a part at a time out of all harmony with the rest of the painting and now at last he saw it as Michael Angelo, the master artist, planned that it should be seen, as a whole not bit by bit nor part by part.

My friends, our great mistake in life is to see it moment by moment and hour by hour. If we see life bit by bit and hour by hour we see nothing beautiful and divine in it all. Then we look at life day by day we see no loving divine heavenly Father directing and guiding us into the paths of peace. Here we see the pain of a broken heart. There we see the mangled form of a man in a hospital, yonder is the grief stricken home from which the sun hides its face.

Whole Life Must Be Seen

We must see life as a whole beginning here amid earthly scenes and shadows and reaching out into that better world where sin and pain shall be no more, if we are to see anything desirable and wonderful in it all. Paul said: "Our light affliction which is but for a moment worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory."

Thanksgiving enlarges life. It gives vision of harmony when no harmony can be seen. It increases our happiness for we know all things work together for our good. It enlarges character and develops the soul. Thanksgiving forgets not all his benefits.

There is nothing so little and dwarfing in its nature as ingratitude. Ingratitude makes men mean and miserly of soul. It narrows and blights all life like the night of death. Where ingratitude fills the heart there is a blackness there like the despair of the lost.

Thanksgiving Is Praise

Thanksgiving is praise to the Almighty for all his favors and benefits. It is harmony of a soul in tune with the infinite. It is true religion if you please paying its debt to its Maker. It is only returning love for love when we are thankful to God.

The only beings that love ingratitude are the demons of hell. They are the only ones that delight in discord and darkness. They are the only ones that love hatred instead of love. No one but the evil can love jangling and murmuring instead of song and praise. No one but a morbid life can take joy in complaining and fault-finding. To be sick is to be abnormal and out of harmony with God and nature. Heaven is filled with praise and thanksgiving. To sing God's praise is one of the greatest acts of our souls. God planned this world for beauty and song, not for discord and evil. The birds sing as they rise up into the ethereal blue. The brook laughs in glee as it sings its way to the sea. The breakers roar, yes, but it has been found that amid their roar there is some thing of music and God's eternal harmony.

300 Years of Care

We are today giving thanks for 300 years of God's Almighty care for this great Republic of ours, since the landing of the Pilgrim Fathers, to say nothing of the Pilgrim Mothers. We all have homes for which we should be thankful. We all have life with all its opportunity and possibility. We have some one who loves us and cares whether we live or die. We all have friends who enrich our lives with the magic touch of friendship with all its beauty. Above us all there is God on his throne keeping watch over his own. His care is for us all and over us all in tender mercy. We have a Master of men who is a friend who sticketh closer than a brother. We have the church of Christ which has been the great civilizing agency of the world for these last 2000 years. If we are seeking things for which to be thankful we can find them, if we will.

One of our American Legion boys had been wounded, most severely and sent to a base hospital. Finally after months he was able to be sent GALLEY THREE back to our own shores. But now one arm was paralyzed and permanently useless. The other was almost useless, except that he could use two fingers of the hand. His body had been crippled with wounds until he could no longer labor and work physically. But when he was asked about the war he said, "Oh, but it was worth it sir. I wouldn't give much for another war, but I wouldn't take anything for my share in this one."

Steel Does Not Daunt Girl

There was a girl with a heroic heart whose body wore 17 pounds

not walk and have her being. Spinal walk and have her being. Spinal tuberculosis had done its worst to her and still she wanted no one's pity or sympathy. She could smile through it all and see something in life worth living for. She could laugh away her pain and forget her handicap of life. Brave, yes. Heroic, yes.

Men and women we are thankful only as our souls are mindful of all our benefits. We bless the Lord only as we rise above the narrow outlook of the moment and catch a vision of the glorious destiny which awaits us over there. Forgetting God and His benefits is lack of thought—lack of mindfulness—lack of consideration—lack of soul.

Reformed Church

At the Reformed Church Harvest Home and Missionary Sunday will be observed next Sunday. Rev. H. Heusser, a former pastor, and Rev. A. F. Lienkaemper, a brother of the present pastor, will be the outside speakers of the day. The special services will begin in the Sunday School at 10:00 A. M. and continue throughout the day. Harvest Home services at 11 o'clock, Missionary Rally at 2 P. M. Special music will be rendered by the choir and male quartette at these services. A lunch will be served by the ladies of the church at noon in the Ladies Aid room. Evening services at 8:00. After a short musical program and brief addresses by the visiting pastors the pastor and wife will give an informal reception to the members and friends of the church.

A cordial invitation is extended to all. Rev. W. G. Lienkaemper, pastor.

Presbyterian Church

Sunday School, 10:00 A. M. Morning Worship, 11:00 A. M. Subject: "Pilgrim Fathers, also Mothers." Pilgrim mothers have been neglected by historians and writers, but we owe them a great debt.

Evening Worship, 7:30 P. M. Subject: "Increasing Crime, Why?" This sermon was postponed from last Sunday evening. America's widespread crime is laid at the door of Prohibition by some. Moving pictures by others. Why? There will be special music. Everybody always welcome. Allan A. McRea, Minister.

Christian Church

Services Sunday morning and evening will be helpful to all and you have a cordial invitation to attend. Strangers will find this the home-like church. Bible School at 10 A. M. Preaching and communion at 11 o'clock. Special program Sunday evening. Evening service at 7:30. Harry E. Tucker, Minister.

Methodist Episcopal Church

Regular Services on Sunday: Sunday School 10 A. M. Church Services 11 A. M. and 7:30 P. M. The evening for the mid-week prayer and praise service has been changed from Wednesday to Thursday. This week, however, the mid-week meeting will be omitted because of the joint Thanksgiving day services on Thursday at the Christian Church.

The opening dance of the season at the Fairview Hall will be given Saturday night by the baseball boys who are anxious to raise money this winter to buy new uniforms. The music will be furnished by Wilkin's Jazz Orchestra, and the boys promise you all a big time who attend. 11-2511

BETTER TRAINING URGED BY TEACHERS OF COUNTY

That the teachers of Tillamook county in favor of an increase to the state superintendent's salary to \$5000 a year was indicated at the recent institute, held in Tillamook when resolutions to that effect were adopted.

The teachers further went on record as favoring such legislation as will insure in the future adequate training of all teachers in the profession. There was no specific reference to proposed legislation in the resolution.

The value of industrial club work was also indorsed and the success of the institute was attributed to the program provided by County Superintendent Lamb.

The resolutions themselves read as follows: "First: Whereas the improvement of the teaching service is the first aim of this organization therefore, we the teachers of Tillamook County in Institute assembled, go on record as favoring such legislation as will insure that at some future time, every teacher in the State of Oregon will be well trained for the work.

"Second: Whereas the salary now paid to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction is, in view of the importance of the office, decidedly inadequate, therefore be it resolved that we, the teachers of Tillamook County, recommend that the salary be placed at not less than \$5000 per year.

"Third: Whereas the Industrial club work fostered by the County Fair Board and the Oregon Agricultural College, is of incalculable value to the boys and girls of the county, therefore be it resolved that we, the teachers of Tillamook County, do all in our power to further that work.

"Fourth: Whereas the Tillamook City teachers have extended to us every courtesy, therefore, be it resolved

that we extend to them our thanks for their hospitality.

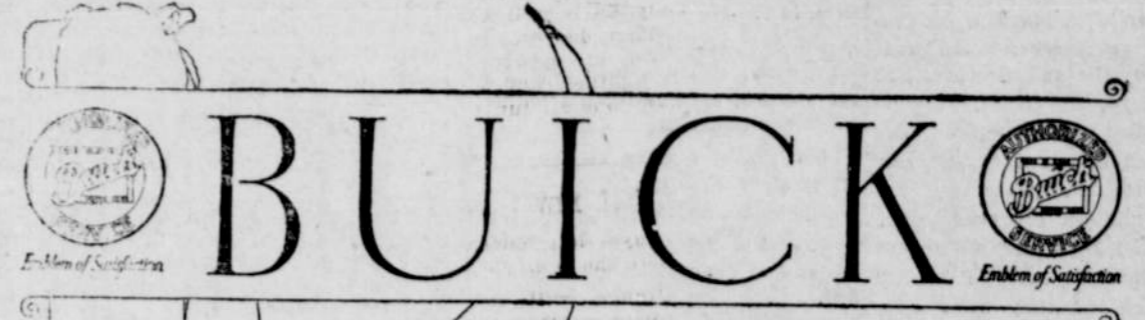
"Fifth: Whereas we, the teachers of Tillamook County assembled in Annual Institute, have found during the session much inspiration from the program provided by our County Superintendent, therefore be it resolved that we tender to him and to the institute instructors our grateful appreciation of the professional enthusiasm with which this institute has been held.

"Respectfully submitted," "L. W. Turnbull," "W. L. Bryan," "Clara Burge," "Com. on Resolutions."

Dr. and Mrs. Lebow will have charge of Dr. Wise Dental practice while he is away. 11-1811

Apples laid down at Tillamook, per box loose pack, \$1.75. Rome Beauty, Spitzenberg or Yellow Newton. N. L. Guy, Dallas, Oregon, 11-11p4 Pigs for sale—E. Atkinson, Sandlake, Oregon.

Advertisement for The First National Bank, Tillamook, Oregon, featuring a building illustration and text about banking services.



BUICK has built cars upon the practical basis of dependability for two decades and it is only natural that each year more and more business men and professional men should choose Buick. In addition to their reliability for business use, the Buick Nineteen Twenty One Models possess power, beauty, roominess and comfort that make them especially gratifying in leisure hours to the entire family. The new Buick three Passenger Roadster is admirably fitted to the needs of business. A nation-wide Buick Service re-inforces the Buick dependability.

UNSET GARAGE.

WHEN BETTER AUTOMOBILES ARE BUILT, BUICK WILL BUILD THEM

Advertisement for Winchester 1866-1920 guns, featuring an illustration of a man with a rifle and text about the appointment of King-Crenshaw Hardware Co. as a distributor.

Advertisement for G. H. BENNETT & SONS, Contractors and Builders, with contact information.

Advertisement for Hill's Cascara Quinine, a medicine for colds and coughs, with a portrait of a man.

Advertisement for Dr. E. L. Glaisyer, Veterinarian and County Dairy Herd Inspector, with contact information.