

SOME THOUGHTS . . .

"We should never despair, our situation before has been unpromising and has changed for the better, so I trust, it will again. If new difficulties arise, we must only put forth new exertions and proportion our efforts to the exigency of the times."

- General George Washington, *on July 15, 1777*

"Giving Thanks. There are few things that bring greater energy and strength to our souls than the exercise of lifting praise and thanksgiving from our hearts to God's. Gratitude has a uniquely wonderful way of lifting us out of the smog of a life that is preoccupied with the shallow and short-lived resources of ourselves . . . let your heart resonate with the ancients who knew the secret of thanksgiving!"

-Dr. Joseph M. Stowell

"Be thankful for what you have, not thankless because of what you don't have."

-a Red & Rover cartoon caption

"This is Gramps' favorite part of Thanksgiving . . . the food coma."

-a Crankshaft cartoon caption, by Batiuk & Ayers

"Thanksgiving, after all, is a word of action."

-W. J. Cameron, as quoted in a Mutts cartoon caption

"By all accounts, we are closing out what has been for millions of people a stress-filled 12 months of wondering what the future will bring. The pause for the Christmas season seems like an island of peace and serenity. And for believers, that is as it should be. Because when our thoughts turn to Bethlehem, we commemorate the events of that once-in-eternity night of nights, and we encounter the reality of what the world promises, but never delivers. It cannot.

"In the greatest Gift ever to invade humanity, we find true peace. Indeed a peace that far surpasses human comprehension. And by receiving it, true believers realize that we serve a God who cares and responds to us in

countless ways. The scriptural reminder that our times are in His hands covers it all — past, present, and future. It is the essence of what Bethlehem is all about.

"Assurance and expectation, therefore, are watchwords of the season. We live daily in the assurance that, while turmoil seems the hallmark of the day, all is well in heaven; history is proceeding exactly on time, and our faith enlivens the expectation that His promise to return and call us home is very near. Remember, it was in the fullness of time He came to us, and when the time is right, He will return. That's our message. That's our hope."

-William E. Sutter
(The Friends of Israel)