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For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.
Romans 10:13

Promoting the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the Inner City.

Illustration, photography, graphic design and journalism by Jim Robinson, unless otherwise indicated.
Most all pictures link.

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the **SOUWINNER** *One soul at a time*

The Meaning of Thanksgiving

Its Origins in American Christianity

Thanksgiving is a traditional holiday and time to take off of work and be with the family. But did it not mean more than this to the Pilgrims who came to America to befriend the Indians?

Secular sources for the [origins of Thanksgiving](#) do in part recognize the religious aspect of it, but not all the time. Thanksgiving for Christians means something different than Thanksgiving for the secular world.

In November of 1623 the harvest crops were gathered and Governor William Bradford made a proclamation in Plymouth Massachusetts. He was the leader of the 1620 Plymouth Colony called the Plymouth Plantation. His proclamation said, "All ye Pilgrims with your wives and little ones, do gather at the Meeting House, on the hill... there to listen to the pastor, and render Thanksgiving to the Almighty God for all His blessings." ([Christiananswers.net](#)). As you can see, Thanksgiving is solely a Christian day.

I remember Thanksgiving as a time when friends and family gathered together over a great feast with a turkey and all the rest. We were not all Christian, but we got along that day for the most part. But as time went on I realized that Thanksgiving was a part my Christian heritage.

In the years to follow Gov. William Bradford's proclamation. The federal government several times made Thanksgiving a national holiday and recognized its Christian element. Henry Laurens, president of the Continental Congress was part of the First National Proclamation of the first Thanksgiving Day. He said, Thanksgiving Day was "...for solemn thanksgiving and praise. That with one heart and one voice the good people may express the grateful feelings of their hearts, and consecrate themselves to the service of their Divine Benefactor;... and their humble and earnest supplication that it may please God, through the merits of Jesus Christ, mercifully to forgive and blot them (their manifold sins) out of remembrance... That it may please

Him... to take schools and seminaries of education, so necessary for cultivating the principles of true liberty, virtue and piety under His nurturing hand, and to prosper the means of religion for the promotion and enlargement of that kingdom which consisteth of 'righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy-host'..." ([Christiananswers.net](#))

On January 1, 1795 George Washington wrote a national Thanksgiving Day {Proclamation saying, "...our duty as a people, with devout reverence and affectionate gratitude, to acknowledge our many and great obligations

to Almighty God, and to implore Him to continue is... our duty as a people, with devout reverence and affectionate gratitude, to acknowledge our many and great obligations to Almighty God, and to implore Him to continue and confirm the blessings we experienced..." ([Christiananswers.net](#)).

Thanksgiving was the Pilgrims' way of thanking God for the help of Indians like Squanto who taught them how to fish and grow vegetables. They held a feast to honor those Indians of the Wamponoag Tribe. Three days of Thanksgiving followed the feast with the Indians. Unfortunately, many Thanksgiving Days were held to celebrate victories over the Natives after that. ([caffeinedestiny.com](#))



(photo courtesy Microsoft Publisher) Thanksgiving Day has always been a holiday time to gather together with friends and relatives over a feast. How much do we remember the Christian meaning behind Thanksgiving?

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