

November 22 Thursday

THANKSGIVING DAY

WITH THANKSGIVING

In nothing be anxious; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. Phil. 4:6.

This is probably one of the most quoted verses in the New Testament. Whatever comes, the Christian should be able to have peace of mind, since he can bring before God in prayer every situation and every need.

Yet many Christians overlook two words of tremendous importance. These are the words "with thanksgiving."

We who live in a land of freedom have much for which to be thankful. We can make our own life choices and carry on our discussions without the thought that a simple misstatement might put us into a concentration camp. Thousands of people are today suffering torture and brainwashing in concentration camps because those who control their nations feel that they are not politically reliable. We who enjoy freedom can easily fail to realize what it means.

It is especially appropriate that we give thanks to God for the freedom that He has given us. Yet even more important than freedom from fear and freedom from want is freedom from the power of sin. Many a man who is outwardly free is so shackled by the bands of sinful habits or sinful thoughts that only despair and ruin can be ahead. No human strength can break the power of sin. Only God's almighty power can do it.

Jesus Christ gave His life on the cross, "that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:15). Everyone who will look to Christ in faith can receive this wonderful gift. It means immediate deliverance from the terrible guilt of sin and constantly increasing freedom from the power of sin. It is only when one is free from sin that one can have true freedom in other matters. Thank God for His unspeakable gift.

--Prof. A. A. MacRae, Hatfield, Pa.