



REFLECTIONS

November 18, 2018

When the Lord your God brings you into the land he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you — a land with large, flourishing cities you did not build, houses filled with all kinds of good things you did not provide, wells you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves you did not plant — then when you eat and are satisfied, be careful that you do not forget the Lord, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

Deuteronomy 6:10-12

Thanksgiving Day Prayer

Loving God, we pause this day to praise you and to give thanks for our many blessings. Too often we allow them to be overshadowed amidst the troubles we face in this world. Too often our attention is drawn to our own pain or to selfish desires. So, we come to you today in thanksgiving for the many blessings in our lives.

We thank you for life itself. You have blessed us with our being, you have given us people to love and people who love us, and most of all you have showered us with the blessing of your love. We thank you for our world—for color and shapes that paint the beauty of the earth that our eyes behold, for sounds that broadcast the music of life to our ears, and for the fragrances that brings hunger for life to our souls.

We are blessed to live in this country, by the prosperity we enjoy, and by the security we so often take for granted. We thank you for the flourishing cities we did not build, the houses filled with good things we did not build, water from wells we did not dig, and foods from fields we did not plant. We thank you for freedom gained by the courage of our forefathers, their lives they gave to gain it, and the millions of sacrifices to protect it. We give you thanks for the security offered by police forces and firefighters; and for those who care for our health. We are grateful for their ever-growing abilities to treat traumas and diseases that once shortened human life spans.

Memories of yesterday are blessings of today. Memories of good times bless us with smiles. Memories of trying times bless us by helping us grow. We have been blessed by all that has gone before us; and we will be blessed by whatever may lie ahead. But most of all we are blessed by today.

Today we praise you, our gracious and loving God; and we offer this prayer of thanksgiving in the name of your Son and our Savior, Jesus the Christ, the greatest blessing of them all. By the sacrifice of his body and blood our wrongs are cleansed that we are blessed with life everlasting. Amen

May your Thanksgiving Day be blessed with the love of Jesus.

You are the light of the world,

Richard +

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