



*Chalmette
Church of Christ*

December 20, 2009

*Merry
Christmas*

Merry Christmas
from The Lance
Family!

Two Very Different Holidays

I heard about a teacher who asked the children in her class about the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday. She thought it might be effective to inch toward its meaning by having them playfully correct some wrong ideas.

"Now let me think," she began. "Thanksgiving. That's the day when we think about all the stuff we have. And how we want more things than anybody else has. And how we don't care about anybody but ourselves. And . . ."

"No!" the preschool kids were starting to chorus! "No-o-o!"

Then one little guy in the middle of the pack looked up and chirped, "That's not Thanksgiving, Miss Michelle. That's Christmas!"

As we begin the transition in this country from Thanksgiving to Christmas, there does indeed seem to be a world of difference in the way these two holidays are viewed. Thanksgiving is one of the few holidays left which has not been ruined by commercialism. It is still a relatively "pure" time of giving thanks to God for our bountiful blessings. Christmas, on the other hand...

What should be a time when we are able to take great joy in giving to others (for "it is more blessed to give than to receive", Acts 20:35) and a time to remember the great gift that God has given us through Jesus Christ, has (for many) turned instead to a stressful, hectic time when we are focused on ourselves and our wants.

Allow me to make a suggestion based on an ancient Jewish practice. The Jews had a day set aside, like our day of Thanksgiving, to remember how God had blessed them as a nation and taken care of them in

their darkest hour. Purim was a day of "gladness and feasting...and for sending presents to one another." (Esther 9:19).

However, there was one major difference in their practice and ours (though there shouldn't be). Their thanksgiving resulted in gift giving, but not just to friends and family. They had a practice of "sending presents to one another and gifts to the poor." (Esther 9:22).

This holiday season (indeed in our daily life) let's seize every opportunity to give thanks to God for how He has blessed us. We need to remember that with blessings come responsibilities -- and we have a responsibility to use our blessings to God's glory. In the weeks ahead, may you truly know the joy of using your blessings not merely to make your family happy, but to share with others around you who are in need.

By: Alan Smith

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Kid's Korner

See if you can answer the following questions:

Answers from last week:

1. A lamb 2. Farmer 3. Sodom and Gomorrah 4. Esau 5. Solomon

Old Testament Novice

1. Who lived in the garden of Eden besides Adam and Eve? Which of their children enjoyed the garden's life of ease?
2. Given to Moses on the mount God wrote them on tablets of stone; laws just for the Israelites, 'til their sins Christ would atone.
3. What animal was used to tell Pharaoh in a dream of famine to come with crops thin and lean?
4. I was the most cunning beast when the earth was made; I deceived the first woman who then God disobeyed.
5. The Israelites complained; manna in the morning, manna at night; what meat did God send them to keep them quiet?

Tune in next week to see if you got all the answers correct!



The food pantry at the Church Building is running very low. Please remember to bring non-perishable items if possible!



Cleaning Schedule

Month of December—J.V. Russell

Upcoming Events

December 27- Ladies Class

December Birthdays

- 22- Veneta Gautreaux
23- Tina Lance
28- Rhonda Jones
30- Edie Schulz



Prayer List



**Mary Jo Lance
Malcolm Vasquez
Joe Riley
Alice Riley
Sherry Towle
Betty Grisham
Sheila Matthews
Burnell Rogers
Margo
Claudia Smith
Lisa Lance
Vickie Swanner
Patricia Rodney
William Brossette
Donny Vick
Mary Macalusa
Everett Tittsworth**

**Chalmette Church of Christ
200 De La Ronde
Chalmette, LA 70043
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**Services of The Church
Sunday**

Bible Classes 9:00 am
AM Worship 10:00 am
PM Worship 6:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Classes 7:00 pm

Elders

Mark Lance 504-250-8492

J. V. Russell 504-277-0251

Charles Whitley 504-277-4717

Evangelist

Mark Lance 504- 250-8492

gospelpr@cox.net

Deacons

Scott Russell 504-232-4120

Wayne Schulz 504-392-3999

Butch Snyder 504-682-0051

Mike Swanner 504-271-2465

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