

NOVEMBER 2018

Hansi Newsletter

Praise and deep gratitude to the Triune Godhead for all the Grace and Love, and also the divine protection we have received for a “new” year, which suddenly has become “the end of another year” for all of us who are still around!

Turning 92 years in human age, I am observing, and sometimes grieving, for some friends of my generation and also younger, who have had the honor to be promoted in the last ten months to be in the presence of our risen Lord and Savior and re-united with family and friends forever! Wow!

I sometimes wonder if we leave all the memories about pain, tears and emotional hurts behind, like our “wasted” physical body, and just bring our happy memories along as we visit with each other, since no darkness or evil is permitted to mess with us anymore?

Will we celebrate good holidays like Christmas or Thanksgiving, and laugh about some funny past happenings? I am sure we will have a celebration of Thanksgiving more often than once a year when we have entered eternity, and heaven’s calendar will show divine patterns we cannot grasp with our present human limitations!

I have been thinking about gratitude as we are approaching another Thanksgiving and I am working on my next SAIL Letter, which will stay with the theme of God’s Creation.

The Bible says that those who claim that there is no God to give thanks or appreciation to, have **no excuse** because He as our Creator God can be seen and found in our visible world full of beauty and order!

“By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.” (Hebrews 11:3)

I am doing some research about our sun being a physical reflection and image of the “SON” as light and life givers, and I am amazed about the amount of modern scientific discoveries which all point to our Creator God! (See our SAIL!)

Modern secular science is sacrificing its integrity in its attempts to keep God out of the picture. They **work on it** to erase Him and give the honor and glory, not to our Creator God, but to the creature in any form or by any name!

They desire to ignore what they will **never see** and discover how it all started, if they ignore God and build on human understanding as their foundation!

This is a deliberate attempt to take sacred things for granted because they cannot explain them, or they treat it with stony silence and declare it as not essential. It is seeping into our Christian thinking, as it is taught in higher education to our children and children’s children. And we, as the Elders who know better, are silent about it also, even to our own church youth, our own children!

Why is this so harmful? Because we take a lot of important matters for granted, and substitute earthly matters for deeply religious memorials, which can bring us closer back to God.

Our Thanksgiving has become “Turkey Day”. The story of our Pilgrims’ wonderful survival, seen so clearly as God’s loving guidance and protection, has become some kids’ plays about eating, dressed as Pilgrims and Indians – but God gets more and more forgotten!

My beloved fellow Americans, unless we use our best efforts and ask the Lord for some courage to speak up and bring the true historic happenings of America’s beginnings back into the awareness of the American public, we are seeing our beloved “Nation under God” being trampled into a dirty hellish mess. And we wonder what happened?

God told me after my many prayers that He is not through with America yet! There are still enough praying people who **are** praying that can make a difference and wake up our nation! Let’s begin with an attitude of gratitude **every day**. Let’s just thank God for the way this Nation began. Let’s just praise the Lord!

Have a most joyful Thanksgiving – and tell your youngsters about God’s miracles that kept the Pilgrims alive and gave the world “a nation under God”! May she remain a light for God until Jesus comes!

In His Name, Amen!

Grandma Hansi

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Give thanks to the Lord our God, for He is GOOD and His faithful Love endures forever!

The calendar now shows November and, yes, it is generally a time of “Thanksgiving” here in America, but the heart of the true believer makes the giving of thanks to God a constant expression of our love for Him.

However, I must admit that there are times when I just do not FEEL like being thankful! It is easy for me to be thankful when I get an immediate answer to my prayers or for unexpected blessings that God sends me. I find that it is very easy for me to “know” what the Bible instructs us to do and how to live. I absolutely love reading the Bible more than any other activity!

But, when things are not going “my” way, or the answer to my requests seems as impossible as me suddenly sprouting wings and flying, then I find myself being ever so *ungrateful!* And suddenly there I am, keeping company with the hypocrites that Jesus warns against throughout the Holy Scriptures.

It is in those times, especially, that I should be remembering to offer up the “sacrifice” of thanksgiving. It is not how I “feel” about God – or my circumstances – that makes God worthy of being thanked! HE is ALWAYS worthy. He alone.

“To Thee I shall offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and call upon the name of the LORD.” (Psalm 116:17)

Here are two different Scriptures about giving thanks. In 1 Thessalonians, Paul writes *“IN everything, give thanks, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” (verse 5:18)*

In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul writes, *“always giving thanks FOR all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father.” (Ephesians 5:20)*

What is the difference? When troubles or trials, pain or sorrows come, we must be thankful IN the circumstance and FOR it, as well! God is sovereign; He alone knows the reason He allows events to happen in our lives. Although we may be feeling bereft or we look hopelessly at what appears to be an empty future (without a beloved spouse or parent or child or our former good health or finances, etc.), He promises to NEVER leave us or forsake us and even to be WITH us when we pass through the fire and high waters.

Even then, when I find myself having my solitary pity party, God is always faithful to gently remind me to stop feeling sorry for myself, to be grateful for the MANY blessings I DO have and for the trials, as well.

Let us offer up a “sacrifice” of thanksgiving, a deliberate expression of THANKS to God, especially in the midst of those times when God does not come through the way we think He should, because **the Lord IS good and His love endures forever!**

From Jessie

P.S. By God’s grace and mercy, Irina, one of the three women in “our” church in Ukraine who we shared about last month, is no longer battling cancer. She has been called home to the loving presence of our sovereign Lord Jesus. Thank you for your continued prayers for the other two ladies, as well as for that entire congregation. They have experienced much of the fellowship of His suffering.

We are packing more boxes with toys and more shoes, clothes and blankets to arrive in Ukraine in time for a joyful celebration of our Savior’s birth. We thank YOU ALL very much and we are praising God for your faithful “standing by”, as we share His love in practical ways!