

BEING GRATEFUL & GIVING THANKS

Gratitude is the inner feeling from blessing or benefit received

Thanksgiving is the expression of that feeling

1. What God has done for you In Christ by grace Col. 1:12-14
2. What people have done for you in your life Rom. 1:11; 16:4
3. What has not happened will not 1 Peter 1:5; Heb. 1:14; Ps. 91:10-12
4. For the freedom & privilege to live as an American in the most blessed nation under the longest running Constitutional Republic
 - There is a Creator Who created all men equal
 - Inalienable rights come from God
 - Government is to protect inalienable rights
 - There is a fixed Moral law
 - The consent of the governed
 - Alter, abolish, or create a new government

When in the Course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which **the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God** entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that **all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights**, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — **That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men**, deriving their just powers from **the consent of the governed**, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, **it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government**, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes;

The core of our Freedom as Americans stems from the guiding truths in the Declaration of Independence. It is the heart and soul of American government as well as the Birth Certificate of America. If you will take the time to read it which only has 1458 words you will discover that Our Founders:

- 1. Acknowledged God – (Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God; Creator; Supreme Judge of the World; Divine Providence).**
- 2. Acknowledged God, Creator, gives men certain unalienable rights (God given & inseparable from the individual; inherent; not government given rights).**
 - all men are created equal (no man is born with a right to rule over another)**
 - all have the right to life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness (private property honestly earned and owned through labor)**
- 3. Legitimate government among men exists to secure and protect those rights.**
- 4. There is a higher moral law; the Laws of Nature and the Laws of Natures God. Below the moral law, government’s authority to rule rests upon the consent of the governed; government is limited in its jurisdictions over private areas.**
- 5. If government fails to do these things the people have the right to abolish that government and reconstitute a new one.**