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THANKSGIVING!

Thanksgiving is my favorite time of the year. I like the smell of the turkey cooking in the oven, the parades on television, the ballgames on to watch after lunch, and especially the opportunity to be with my family on this special day. It is indeed a "time for giving thanks" for the blessings of life that we enjoy. God has been very good to mankind in the gifts that He has given to the world. And we should be thankful for all the things that we have. The Bible tells us in Colossians 3:15 that we should "*be thankful*" for the blessings of life. We also read in 1st Thessalonians 5:17-18 that we should "*Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*" The greatest gift that God has ever given to us is the gift of His only begotten Son Jesus Christ to die for our sins upon Calvary's cross! And for this gift we should be eternally grateful. As Paul in 2nd Corinthians 9:15 puts it: "*Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift.*"

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S BIBLE QUESTIONS:

The man who was described as a "*mighty hunter before the Lord*" was Nimrod. And the beginning of his kingdom was known as Babel. (Genesis 10:8-10)

Daniel was the Old Testament prophet that was delivered from the mouth of the lion. (Daniel 6) The Apostle Paul is the New Testament character that said he was "*... delivered from the mouth of the lion.*" (2nd Timothy 4:17)

QUESTIONS FOR NEXT MONTH:

What Old Testament prophet admonished the Jews for "*dwelling in their ceiled houses*" while God's house was "*lying in waste*?"

Who was the first Christian to perform miracles besides the Apostles after the church had been established? (From where did he get his miraculous powers?)

THERE IS HOPE!

"For to him that is joined to all the living there is hope: for a living dog is better than a dead lion." (Ecclesiastes 9:4) If there is time for one more play, then there is hope. If you have one strike left, then you might hit a homerun and win the game. If you are sick, then there is the hope that you will get well. And so because of hope, we should not give up – something good might happen. If a non-Christian is still alive, then there is the hope that he or she might yet obey the gospel. If a Christian falls away from the Lord, as long as they are still alive, there is the chance they will come back. We hope, and therefore we pray! You see folks, our God is a "**God of all hope!**" For even in death, we as faithful Christians have hope! Titus 1:2 says the following: "*In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began.*"

FROM WHERE DID THEY COME?

What do the Taj Mahal, the Tower of London, the Sphynx, and the White House all have in common? The answer is, they were all structures that were built by men. We may have not witnessed their construction, but there is evidence of design and planning in their construction that lets us know there was a designer and planner who is responsible for their existence. It is in this same way that we know there is a **“great designer and planner of the universe.”** We may not have seen its coming into existence, but the evidence of intelligence and design within the universe should lead one to the inescapable conclusion that there was a **“great designer and intelligence”** behind its construction. This is the clear teaching of Hebrews 3:4, which says: ***“For every house is built by some man, but He that built all things is God.”*** This is also the same point made by Psalms 19:1 which says, ***“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.”*** Dr. Arthur H. Compton, a Nobel Prize Winner in Physics recognizes this truth as well when he says, **“For myself, faith begins with the realization that a supreme intelligence brought the universe into being and created man. It is not difficult for me to have this faith, for it is incontrovertible that where there is a plan there is intelligence—an orderly, unfolding universe testifies to the truth of the most majestic statement ever uttered—“In the beginning God!”**

People who do not believe in God and His work in the creation of the universe will have no excuses in the Judgment Day for this lack of faith. Romans 1:18-20 makes this clear when it says the following: ***“...For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.”*** It is apparent that God designed the universe and man in such a way as to reveal His existence to mankind. Once again, this is the common logic of Hebrews 3:4: ***“For every house is built by some man; but He that built all things is God.”*** Just as a building gives glory to the architect who designed it, so the universe gives glory to the God who created all things. (Psalms 8:3-8/Psalms 19:1-4) As Psalms 139:14 says: ***“I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.”***

“The heavens declare the glory of God!”