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KEAVY CHURCH OF CHRIST

371 LEVEL GREEN ROAD, CORBIN, KY 40701

Across from Keavy Elementary School

MEETING TIMES

Sunday Bible Classes (All Ages)	10:00 AM
Sunday Morning Worship	11:00 AM
Sunday Evening Worship	5:00 PM
Tuesday Support Group for Addicts and Survivors of Domestic Violence	6:00 PM
Wednesday Afternoon & Evening Jail Ministry @ Knox County Detention Center	1:00 PM
Wednesday Evening Bible Classes	5:00 PM

Learning From The First Thanksgiving

(More Bible Studies Available @ marktabata.com)

The story of the first Thanksgiving dates back to ancient England.

Around the 1600's, the king of England (King James) began to try and bring "control" to the Church of England. Years earlier, this church had formed through a split with the Roman Catholic Church. There arose a group in the Church of England known as "dissenters" who claimed that there were too many corruptions in the Church of England. One group tried to "cleanse" the Church of England and took the name "Puritans."

The second group eventually formed themselves into a separate group all together. They took the name "Separatists." We know them today

by the description "Pilgrims." They took this name from the Scriptures.

> 1 Peter 2:11-Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul,

They secretly formed in eastern England, coming together from the counties of Lincolnshire, Yorkshire, and Notinghamshire. They began meeting in 1606 in a town called Scrooby. They had to change their meeting places, because if they were caught they were thrown into jail and beaten.

Why were they so hunted and persecuted? The man who brought this persecution is a man whose name is well-known to us: King James.

He declared (of the Pilgrims, the Puritans, and another religious group of his day, the Presbyterians):

> "I will make them conform, or I will harry them out of the land or do worse."

What was his beef with the Pilgrims?

Well, you have to remember that even though the Bible had been translated in English some time earlier, the Church of England did not want

people having the Bible in their own language. Old traditions die hard: and the idea of having the Bible in the common language of the people still did not sit well with too many people. But the pilgrims had a prized treasure, one that was getting them in hot water: a copy of the Bible in their common tongue called the Geneva Bible.

> The Geneva Bible was the Bible that the early religious colonists (often called "Pilgrims") brought to America's shores. This Bible, despite its size of nearly 6 inches by 8 inches, was called a "pocket" Bible...The most unique feature of the Geneva Bible – and the feature which so impacted American

culture – was its marginal commentaries. These commentaries were largely the work of reformers who had been driven from Great Britain during the reigns of Bloody Mary and James I – two monarchs who were advocates of the Divine Right of Kings and of the authority of the State over the Church. The commentaries in the Geneva Bible reflected reformation thought and took an anti-autocratic tone toward both church leaders and state leaders. With such open criticism of church and state leaders, the Pilgrims became the target of harsh religious and government persecution. (David Barton, *A Spiritual Heritage: Tour Of The*

United States Capitol, 101-114 (Kindle Edition); Aledo, Texas; Wallbuilder Press).

It is hard for us to believe this: but the entire effort behind the King James translation of the Bible was an attempt to counter this powerful and popular translation of Scripture.

The Pilgrims-adhering to the directive of the Savior (Matthew 10:23)-fled from England to Holland for a period of twelve years; then, when persecution began there, they fled to America in order to establish a new colony and spread the Gospel.

The Pilgrims had a Divine mandate for coming to America.

The leader of the Pilgrims was a man named William Bradford. In his book, *Of Plymouth Plantation,* he wrote of the reasons why they wanted to come to America:

> "Lastly, (and which was not least,) a great hope & inward zeall they had of laying some good foundation, or at least to make some way therunto, for ye propagating & advancing ye gospell of ye kingdom of Christ in those remote parts of ye world; yea, though they should be but even as stepping- stones unto others for ye

performing of so great a work." (William Bradford, *Of Plymouth Plantation,* 22-23 (Kindle Edition); Start Publishing E-Book)

102 passengers eventually sailed on the Mayflower on September 6, 1620. The ship sailed with 102 passengers, along with its crew. The voyage across the Atlantic took 66 days. On November 11, 1620 — They reached Cape Cod.

The Pilgrims signed the Mayfair Compact when they came to America. Part of it reads:

In the name of God, Amen. We whose names are underwritten, the

loyal subjects of our dread sovereign lord, King James… having undertaken for the glory of God, and advancement of the Christian faith, and the honor of our king and country, a voyage to plant the first colony in the northern parts of Virginia; do by these present, solemnly and mutually in the presence of God and one of another, covenant and combine ourselves together into a civil body politic, for our better ordering and preservation, and furtherance of the ends aforesaid.

That first winter was very hard! It is estimated that about half of the Pilgrims died. But the Native

Americans who were already here (the "Indians") helped the Pilgrims survive. The next year, the Pilgrims celebrated their first Thanksgiving holiday in thanks to God. In gratitude to their new neighbors who had helped them to survive, they invited the Indians to join them. The leader of the Pilgrims, William Bradford, had this to say.

> To All Ye Pilgrims: Inasmuch as the great Father has given us this year an abundant harvest of Indian corn, wheat, beans, squashes, and garden vegetables, and has made the forests to abound with game and the sea with fish and clams, and inasmuch as He has protected

us from the ravages of the savages, has spared us from pestilence and disease, has granted us freedom to worship God according to the dictates of our own conscience; now, I, your magistrate, do proclaim that all ye Pilgrims, with your wives and little ones, do gather at ye meeting house, on ye hill, between the hours of 9 and 12 in the day time, on Thursday, November ye 29th of the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred and twenty-three, and third year since ye Pilgrims landed on ye Pilgrim Rock, there to listen to ye pastor, and render thanksgiving to ye Almighty God for all His blessings.

Other American Presidents through the years have encouraged Americans to celebrate the fourth Thursday in November as a day of Thanksgiving to the Lord for His blessings on our land.[1]

Lessons In Citizenship

The first Thanksgiving reminds us that we are pilgrims in this world.

> 1 Chronicles 29:15-For we *are* aliens and pilgrims before You, As *were* all our fathers; Our days on earth *are* as a shadow, And without hope.

Matthew 6:33-But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Hebrews 11:13-16-These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced *them* and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. **14** For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. **15** And truly if they had called to mind that *country* from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. **16** But now they desire a better, that is, a

heavenly *country.* Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

While America was founded on Christian principles,[2] the idea of any nation becoming a Christian Empire (I,e, using arms to enforce Christ's teaching on non-Christians) is opposed to God's Word.[3] We also need to realize that there were other forces at work in the establishment of America.[4]

Lessons In Controversy

The Pilgrims did not use force when they were confronted and persecuted

for their faith (although they did at times resort to self-defense[5]

Matthew 5:44-45-But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, **45** that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

Matthew 10:23-When they persecute you in this city, flee to another. For assuredly, I say to you, you will not have gone through the

cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

We do not resort to persecuting non-Christians, or try to bully them into serving God.

Lessons In Thanksgiving

(I couldn't find a "C" word for Thanksgiving to go with the "C" theme)

God has richly blessed our nation, and we should be thankful for all His blessings.

Psalm 100:4-5-Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, *And* into His courts with praise. Be thankful to

Him, *and* bless His name. **5** For the LORD *is* good; His mercy *is* everlasting, And His truth *endures* to all generations.

Psalm 107:1-2-Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *He is* good! For His mercy *endures* forever. **2** Let the redeemed of the LORD say *so,* Whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy,

What is the way forward for our country?

I Dreamed I Saw America On Her Knees

C.L. Powell

I dreamed I saw America on her knees.

I dreamed I heard her say: “God, help us, please.”

I saw our children playing happy and free.

I heard them sing: “My Country, tis of thee.”

I walked inside an old country school;

I heard the children quote the golden rule.

I saw the people passing on their way.

I heard them with kind words to say.

I saw a family, with happy boys and girls.

They were a familiar scene, in a Godly world.

I heard a mother call in words so kind,

“Come to the house, children; it’s supper time.”

I saw them around the table, I hear Daddy say,

“We must thank God for our food; let’s pray.”

I walked into a place of worship; I heard them sing,

Not with style nor glamour; just voices, with a Godly ring.

I awoke from my dream with glad refrain.

Please help us bring America back to God again!

[1]John Adams- I do hereby recommend accordingly, that Thursday, the 25th day of April next, be observed throughout the United States of America as a day of solemn humiliation, fasting, and prayer; that the citizens on that day abstain as far as may be from their secular occupations, devote the time to the sacred duties of religion in public and in private; that they call to mind our numerous offenses against the Most High God, confess them before Him with the sincerest penitence, implore His pardoning mercy, through the Great Mediator and Redeemer, for our past transgressions, and that through the grace of His Holy Spirit we may be disposed and enabled to yield a more suitable obedience to His righteous requisitions in time to come….Ulysses S. Grant-It becomes a people thus favored to make acknowledgement to the Supreme Author from whom such blessings flow, of their gratitude and their dependence—to render praise and thanksgiving for the same, and devoutly to implore a continuance of God's mercies. Therefore, I, Ulysses S. Grant, President of the United States, do recommend that Thursday the 18th day of November next, be observed as a day of Thanksgiving and of Praise and of Prayer to Almighty God, the Creator and Ruler of the Universe. And I do further recommend to all the people of the United States to assemble on that day in their accustomed places of public worship and to unite in the homage and praise due to the Bountiful Father of all mercies and in fervent prayer for the continuance of the manifold blessings he has vouchsafed to us as a People…Jimmy Carter-Thanksgiving Day was first celebrated in this land not in a moment of unbridled triumph, but in times of great adversity. The colonies of Massachusetts and Virginia had few material possessions to help them face the dangers of the wilderness. They had no certainty that the harvests for which they gave thanks would be sufficient to carry, them through a long winter. Yet they gave thanks to God for what they had and for the hope of this new land. In the darkest hour of the American Revolution, when the young Republic faced defeat by the strongest military power on Earth, our forefathers also saw fit to give thanks for their blessings. In the midst of a devastating Civil War, President Lincoln proclaimed a day to express gratitude for our "singular deliverances and blessings.…" Like those who came before us, we come to give thanks for our singular deliverances and blessings, in a time of both danger and great promise. May we be thankful in proportion to that which we have received, trusting not in our wealth and comforts, but in the strength of our purpose, that all nations might be similarly blessed with liberty and abundance and live in peace. (From Rand Paul & James Randall Robison, Our Presidents & Their Prayers: Proclamations Of Faith By America's Leaders (Kindle Edition): New York, NY: Center Street Hachette Book Group)

[2] In 1811, New York Supreme Court Chief Justice James Kent in People v. Ruggles held: "'...whatever strikes at the root of the Bible tends manifestly to the dissolution of civil government....' We are a Christian people, and the morality of the country is deeply engrafted upon the Bible.... The Bible in its enlarged sense, as a religion revealed and taught in the Bible, is part and parcel of the law of the land…" (People v. Ruggles, 1811) The South Carolina Supreme Court upheld the Christian foundation of this nation when it ruled in 1844 " Charleston v. Benjamin, "The Bible is part of the common law of the land, with liberty of conscience to all. It has always been so recognized.... Judge Nathaniel Freeman in 1802 charged Massachusetts Grand Juries as follows: "The laws of the Christian system, as embraced by the Bible, must be respected as of high authority in all our courts.... [Our government] originating in the voluntary compact of a people who in that very instrument profess the Christian religion, it may be considered, not as republic Rome was a Pagan, but a Christian republic." (City of Charleston v Benjamin, 1846)..". (Chief Joseph Riverwind, Assisted by Laralyn RiverWind That's What The Old Ones Say: Pre-Colonial Revelations Of God, 146-147 (Kindle Edition); Marble, NC; Word Branch Publishing)

[3] # 1: Inner Kingdom Versus Political Empire Luke 17:20-21-Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God does not come with observation; **21** nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you." # 2: Personal Conversion Versus Forced Conscripts John 6:15-Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone. John 6:44-45-No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. **45** It is written in the prophets, 'AND THEY SHALL ALL BE TAUGHT BY GOD.' Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me. # 3: Spiritual Weapons Versus Carnal Weapons John 18:36-37-Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here." **37** Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." 2 Corinthians 10:3-4-For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. **4** For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, #4: Kingdom Laws Versus Civil Decrees Romans 1:32-who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them. # 5: Prince Of Peace Versus Prince Of Darkness Revelation 17:14-These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful." Luke 4:5-6-Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. **6** And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. # 6: Friendship With God Versus Friendship With The World James 4:4-5-Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. **5** Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously"? # 7: Present Earth Versus New Heavens And New Earth. Philippians 3:20- For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 2 Peter 3:13-Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

[4] The organization known as the Masonic Lodge was instrumental in this agenda.

Years of research among the records of olden peoples available in libraries, museums, and shrines of ancient cultures, has convinced me that there exists in the world today, and has existed for thousands of years, a body of enlightened humans united in what might be termed, an Order of the Quest. It is composed of those whose intellectual and spiritual perceptions have revealed to them that civilization has a Secret Destiny--secret, I say, because this high purpose is not realized by the many; the great masses of peoples still live along without any knowledge whatsoever that they are part of a Universal Motion in time and space….All of the great leaders of ancient times realized and taught that the establishment of a state of permanent peace among the nations depended upon the release of human ideals, but through properly trained and disciplined minds capable of interpreting these ideals in terms of the common good. World democracy was the secret dream of the great classical philosophers. Toward the accomplishment of this greatest of all human ends they outlined programs of education, religion, and social conduct directed to the ultimate achievement of a practical and universal brotherhood. And in order to accomplish their purposes more effectively, these ancient scholars bound themselves with certain mystic ties into a broad confraternity. In Egypt, Greece, India, and China, the State Mysteries came into existence. Orders of initiated priest-philosophers were formed as a sovereign body to instruct, advise, and direct the rulers of the States. Thousands of years ago, in Egypt, these mystical orders were aware of the existence of the western hemisphere and the great continent which we call America. The bold resolution was made that this western continent should become the site of the philosophic empire. Just when this was done it is impossible now to say, but certainly the decision was reached prior to the time of Plato, for a thinly veiled statement of this resolution is the substance of his treatise on the Atlantic Islands. One of the most ancient of man's constructive ideals is the dream of a universal democracy and a cooperation of all nations in a commonwealth of States. The mechanism for the accomplishment of this ideal was set in motion in the ancient temples of Greece, Egypt, and India. So brilliant was the plan and so well was it administrated that it has survived to our time, and it will continue to function until the great work is accomplished….Not only must we preserve that which we have gained through ages of striving, we must also perfect the plan of the ages, setting up here the machinery for a world brotherhood of nations and races. This is our duty, and our glorious opportunity. (Manly P. Hall, The Secret Destiny of America, 105-135 (Kindle Edition): The Philosophical Research Society)

[5] Luke 22:36-38-Then He said to them, "But now, he who has a money bag, let him take *it,* and likewise a knapsack; and he who has no sword, let him sell his garment and buy one. **37** For I say to you that this which is written must still be accomplished in Me: 'AND HE WAS NUMBERED WITH THE TRANSGRESSORS.' For the things concerning Me have an end." **38** So they said, "Lord, look, here *are* two swords." And He said to them, "It is enough."

During the night of the Passover (and before He was arrested), Jesus instructed His Apostles to purchase a "sword." The Greek word translated here as "sword" is *maxairan*. It was the word used to describe a weapon that travelers kept on their person as they traveled, for the purpose of self-defense from hostile criminals and animals.

"Jesus advised the disciples to buy a sword (Luke 22:36). Here the sword (Greek: maxairan) is a dagger or short sword that belonged to the Jewish traveler's equipment as protection against robbers and wild animals. A plain reading of the passage would seem to indicate that Jesus approved of self-defense." (Ron Rhodes, Commonly Misunderstood Bible Verses: Clear Explanations For The Difficult Passages, 200 (Kindle Edition); Eugene, Oregon; Harvest House Publishers)

Another researcher discusses how the Jewish historian, Josephus, used this word.

"Josephus tells us that when Essenes went on a journey they had no need to take supplies with them, for they knew that their needs would be met by fellow-members of their order; they did, however, carry arms to protect themselves against bandits.'" (F. F. Bruce, Hard Sayings of Jesus, 241 (Kindle Edition): Grand Rapids, MI: IVP Academic)