HOLD ON TO THANKSGIVING

You may be asking me why we are holding on to Thanksgiving. Are we about to lose a holiday? As far as I know, Thanksgiving will continue to be a national holiday. What I am concerned about is the fact that all holidays are becoming so commercialized that we really do not honor them as we should. People from years ago might not even recognize them today. Watching a program from the History Channel, I learned that where our ancestors came from in Europe they actually observed Thanksgiving with fasting. If we took the food away from our Thanksgiving, we would not recognize the holiday. Well, the Puritans and Pilgrims in 1621 feasted also in celebration of a good harvest.

According to the History Channel piece that I watched, President Roosevelt attempted to move Thanksgiving to an earlier date in order to help boost the terrible economy at the time. By moving the holiday to an earlier date, the shopping season for Christmas would be longer. Our society has proved that Thanksgiving doesn’t have to be moved. As soon as Halloween is over Christmas sales begin. Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving that traditionally marks the beginning of Christmas season, now begins as soon as you wipe the gravy from the corner of your mouth on Thursday. It might be easier for some families to meet at Walmart at 6pm on Thanksgiving.

I heard on the news this week that people were protesting the show 19 Kids and Counting, because they tried to project their religious values on to their audience. I say if these folks don’t like their values, don’t watch the show. These are the same people that would protest against Thanksgiving if they had the slightest idea that others might actually be thanking God for their blessings. If it should cross their mind that there could be any association to religion in this holiday, they would be screaming about it. Well, I might be stretching it a little because they would not want to lose a paid holiday.

My main point, though I have complained a lot is let us hold on to Thanksgiving. Not in our feast and not in our politics but in our soul, let us be thankful to God who has provided us with all good things. Be thankful for your church, your family, and your country.

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram