

# Thanksgiving Real for True Believers

**I**N AMERICAN history, Thanksgiving Day originated in the Massachusetts Bay Colony when New England settlers gave thanks for survival in their struggle for freedom to worship God without political control.

In a larger sense, Thanksgiving may be traced to the first chapter of Genesis in the Holy Scriptures. There it is written: "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."

For those who believe God is the creator, it is appropriate that thanks should be offered for both spiritual and material blessings. For them, giving thanks is an expression of faith in God.

For those who believe that the earth and the stars originated in a cataclysmic accidental combustion of cosmic dust, Thanksgiving means nothing. For them, mankind was self-created through evolution and who would there be to thank for life and its pleasures?

Within limitations of human knowledge and understanding, neither the story of creation nor the theory of evolution may seem plau-

sible. Either belief demands trust in assumptions that might not be provable in laboratory test tubes.

Evolutionists dispute the Bible story of creation and offer instead unfounded declarations such as "scientists have established that the earth was born 4.6 billion years ago, formed from debris orbiting the sun." It has been argued that acceptance of the evolutionary theory demands more faith than creationism.

Biblical and secular history records that both faith and disbelief in God have existed on earth about as long as human beings.

The Pilgrims and the Puritans came to America because they were harassed by those who doubted the existence of God, and by those who held that government should control or regulate religion.

After they arrived, they found that conflicts in belief and religious practices had come along, too. They still exist in America, and those who claim to have rejected religion and morality are actively engaged in conflict with those who trust in God.

The circumstances affecting believers now might not be as different from those of the Pilgrims two or three centuries ago as we might assume. Our right to religious freedom is threatened.

Children are being taught the anti-God theory of evolution in schools, along with supremacy of the state and, often, socialism. Atheists attack Bible reading, prayer and religious holidays.

Pseudo-theologists claim that "God is dead!" and regard churches as little more than welfare institutions to help care for mankind's material and social needs. Such religion leaves little room for beneficiaries' thanks to rise above the temporal world.

For many, Thanksgiving Day may be only another holiday, devoted to football, feasting, or selfish indulgences.

For millions of others, Thanksgiving Day is what it should be — a time for families to restate their faith in a divine, all-powerful Creator, and to express gratitude for His benevolence. For true believers, every day is a day for thanksgiving!