

November 24, 2017

“A Thanksgiving Story”

“Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with thanksgiving” (Colossians 4:2).

There is a story about Winston Churchill that recounts that as a young boy, Churchill fell into a lake on his family’s estate. It so happened that the gardener’s son came by, saw young Churchill, and jumped in to pull him out of the water, thus saving his life.

The parents of Winston were so grateful that they asked the young man what was something he wanted more than anything else in the world. The young man replied, “I’m am saving my money because I want to be a doctor.” Churchill’s father, being a man of ample means, gave the heroic young gardener’s son a gift of money that took care of all his medical education expenses.

Eventually, this gardener’s son became Sir Arthur Fleming, doctor, and the person who discovered penicillin. Later, in Churchill’s life, when he lay ill with pneumonia, this gardener’s son would again rescue him—this time with penicillin. Many of us can be thankful for the discovery of this “miracle” drug.

Thanksgiving is the religious charge of all those who realize that in many and various ways God continues to provide for us. Some of the ways seem miraculous; other ways appear more mundane. But as Paul reminds us: “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

Come—Worship; Stay—Learn; Go—Serve