“Be Ye Thankful”
Col. 3:15

Introduction:
A. Memorial Day designed to remind Americans of debt of gratitude owed to so many.
B. It is easy to enjoy our way of life with little thought of why we have it.
   1. Like hogs eating apples from a tree without every looking up.
   2. Of course, God is the prime source of all our blessings (Jas. 1:17)
   3. But what of so many who have gone before us?
C. Let us look back with gratitude to those whose toils and sacrifices make our quality of life possible:
   1. As human beings.
   2. As Americans
   3. As Christians.

Discussion:
I. As Human Beings
   A. Noah’s labor to preserve the race (Heb. 11:7)
   B. Our Parents’ care and sacrifices for us (Eph. 6:2)
   C. Inventors’, researchers’ and developers’ contributions.

II. As Americans
   A. Such gratitude is appropriate (Cf. 1 Tim. 2:1-2)
   B. The framers of our constitution.
   C. The defenders of our constitution.
   D. Our freedom and way of life has not come cheap.

III. As Christians
   A. Abraham’s faithfulness leading to the Messianic nation (Heb. 11:8-10).
   B. Jews’ as custodians of the oracles of God (Rom. 3:2)
   C. Dedication, sacrifices, and hard work of the many before us.
      2. The reformers beginning with the 1500’s.
         a. Put Bible into hands of common man.
         b. Fought the corruption of the apostate church.
      3. The pioneers of the “Restoration Movement.”
      4. Those who saved the church from digressions of the recent years.
         a. Those who stood against Societies and Instrumental music.
         b. Those who stood against institutionalism and the social gospel.
      5. Those who led us to Christ by teaching and nurturing us.
   D. Work of Jesus Himself

Conclusion:
A. The fact that all (except Jesus) were fallible men, does ‘t diminish their contributions to our welfare.
B. Nor should their sins and mistakes diminish our gratitude for their labor and sacrifice.