

Thinking in Old Orleans

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THE SEASONS MESSAGE

Now in the midst of the holiday season we see another year and segment of our lives drawing to a close. To me, this season of every year is one of reflection. It is a time to take account of things and make judgments in the historical analysis of our own lives. It is also a time for making resolutions which can uplift the quality of living. To that end this festive season falls unless we are moved a little closer to emulate "The Prince of Peace."

Kenneth L. Patton in this message entitled "The Human Fellowship" has some reflective and appropriate thoughts for us to ponder. Keeping in mind the introductory remarks above, the thrust of this message is probably no more perfectly suited to any season of the year than the one we're in now.

"Let us sing of the men and women who have cherished their hearts and gardens on this earth, our homestead. For they have turned the forests and the

wilderness into farms and villages and cities. Their coming and going have worn paths across the world and made friendly ways for our feet. They have plied the roads of the seas, and taught us to escape the reefs and the weather. No longer need we wander, to gather nuts and berries, to find roots and apples. No longer do we lie cold and hungry to trap the wandering hare and the antelope. No longer do we huddle in thickets and crouch in caves to escape the wind and the sleet. Our cities are mild and fraternal places when seen against the jungles that our fathers and mothers roamed for a million years.

It is easy to give thanks to one God, to imagine His single presence, to speak to his one ear. It is not easy to give thanks to five hundred generations, from whom we have received our customs and our arts, our laws and our learning and our civility. Our gratitude will be known as we become one with them, and in our turn leave benefits to five hundred generations that follow us, to generations beyond end, if man can make his peace with himself...."



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