

For indeed a Heathen can give Glory to GOD for the fruitful season which shall fill his heart with food and gladness; and a Jew can come into the Courts of the LORD in thanksgiving for the same, appearing not empty: but we are Christians, nearer to GOD and more highly favoured than either Heathen or Jew; and more perfect therefore should be our worship of thanksgiving than that of either of them, as the Gospel is the Perfection and Fulfilment both of natural religion and of the Mosaic Law.

Backwarder than the Heathen to offer Thanksgiving to the GOD Who is manifest in Natural Blessings, surely we will not be: More closefisted than the Jew in giving alms of the abundance which GOD has given to us, we shall think it a shame, to the GOD of Revelation Who has required this of us, to shew ourselves: But more than this is needed to make our service that of Christians. It is needed that the Sacrifice of the REDEEMER sanctify both these other Sacrifices of Praise and Almsgiving, and that they be united to It. This, the Holy Eucharist--the Sacrifice memorial and greatly thanksgiving,—the Holy Communion—the Sacrifice effectual and closely uniting,—can alone do. Wherefore, my friends, our Thanksgiving may be, perhaps, as valuable as that of Heathens, if our words are earnest; or even as that of Jews, if our alms are abundant: but it will not be worthy to be called Christian, neither perfect itself, nor helping to perfect us, neither acceptable nor