

1. Tonight we will continue our study of the Book of Colossians at verse fifteen of chapter three. Last week I exegeted Col 3:15 and when time expired I was about to give you several summary points highlighting the importance of maintaining an attitude of thanksgiving.
2. Before we begin the summary points you may want to take advantage of God's protocol for fellowship by silently naming your sins to God as we pray.
3. Let me first give you an expanded translation of Col 3:12-15 and then, after a brief review, we will resume new material.

Col 3:12 Therefore in view of what we have just learned, you must clothe and invest yourselves like the elected ones of God, set-apart and loved by each member of the Trinity, manifesting an emotional stability and control consistent with your holy and beloved status; full of virtue love and kindness, modesty and humility of mind; always displaying stability even under pressure;

Col 3:13 endure and tolerate without complaint your fellow believers while also being gracious and forgiving to others. And if anyone has a complaint against another, they should forgive just as Christ forgave;

Col 3:14 but over and above all the ethical imperatives listed, we must love in the Agape sense, which such love is and keeps on being that which holds together all the imperatives in perfect unity, ready to perform that which God demands or "needs done."

Col 3:15 and you must let the peace, stability and harmony of Christ rule, guide and direct in the sphere of your right lobes; unto which such peace and harmony you were also called as an integral part of the body of Christ; and be you thankful.

Summary Points

1. Jesus fed the four thousand--before eating He gave thanks.

Mat 15:36 Then he took the seven loaves and the fish, and when he had "**given thanks**," he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and they in turn to the people.

2. Unbelievers are not thankful for the work of Christ but substitute instead foolish thoughts replete with vanity and darkness.

Rom 1:21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither "**were thankful**"; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

3. At a time when tongues speaking was a wonderful means of communicating salvation doctrine to Jewish unbelievers, Paul teaches the Corinthians certain caveats using

thanksgiving as his teaching aid.

1Co 14:16 If you are praising God with your spirit, how can one who finds himself among those who do not understand say "Amen" to your "**thanksgiving**," since he does not know what you are saying?

1Co 14:17 You may be "**giving thanks**" well enough, but the other man is not edified.

1Co 14:18 "**I thank**" God that I speak in tongues more than all of you.

4. Early in His ministry Jesus set the example of thankfulness and praise.

Mat 11:25 At that time Jesus answered and said, **I thank thee**, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children.

5. Later in His ministry, when He brought Lazarus back from the dead, Jesus again set the example.

Joh 11:41 So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, **I thank you** that you have heard me.

Joh 11:42 I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me."

Joh 11:43 When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"

6. At the end of His ministry we find Jesus also giving thanks to God.

Mat 26:27 And he took the cup, and **gave thanks**, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it;

Mat 26:28 For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

Mat 26:29 But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.

Mat 26:30 And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.

7. Many of those healed by Jesus gave thanks and praised God the Father. For example from

- a paralyzed man

Luk 5:19 When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus ...

Luk 5:24 But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins ..." He said to the paralyzed man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home."

Luk 5:25 Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God.

Luk 5:26 Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and

said, "We have seen remarkable things today."

- a formerly demon possessed man

Mar 5:18 As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him.

Mar 5:19 Jesus did not let him, but said, "Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you."

Mar 5:20 So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.

- a woman who suffered from osteoperosis

Luk 13:11 and a woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all.

Luk 13:12 When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her, "Woman, you are set free from your infirmity."

Luk 13:13 Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God.

- one of the ten lepers

Luk 17:15 One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice.

Luk 17:16 He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him-- and he was a Samaritan.

- blind Bartimaeus

Luk 18:42 Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has healed you."

Luk 18:43 Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, praising God. When all the people saw it, they also praised God.

8. A lame man healed by Peter jumped for joy and ran through the temple courts praising God.

Acts 3:7 Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong.

Acts 3:8 He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God.

9. Scripture demands prayers of thanksgiving before eating.

Acts 27:35 After he said this, he took some bread and gave thanks to God in front of them all. Then he broke it and began to eat.

Acts 27:36 They were all encouraged and ate some food themselves.

1Ti 4:3 Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath

created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.
1Ti 4:4 For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving:

1Ti 4:5 For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

10. Paul uses the giving of thanks in an analogy teaching liberty versus license.

Rom 14:6 He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks.

11. Paul is thankful for those who assisted him, especially those who risked their lives for him.

Rom 16:4 Who have for my life laid down their own necks: unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles.

12. Paul speaks of his thanks for the grace of God in saving him and how it is his same grace teachings now causing him trouble.

1Co 10:30 For if I by grace be a partaker, why am I evil spoken of for that for which I give thanks?

13. Paul is thankful for the prayer support of many in the church at Corinth.

2Co 1:11 Ye also helping together by prayer for us, that for the gift bestowed upon us by the means of many persons thanks may be given by many on our behalf.

14. Paul expresses his personal thanks to God for the success of his ministry.

2Co 2:14 Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the fragrance of his knowledge by us in every place.

15. Paul gives thanks to God for placing in Titus a desire to teach at Corinth.

2Co 8:16 But thanks be to God, which put the same earnest care into the heart of Titus for you.

16. Paul was grateful for the many believers who assisted him in gathering an offering for the saints at Jerusalem.

2Co 9:12 This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.

2Co 9:13 Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else.

2Co 9:14 And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you.

2Co 9:15 Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

17. Paul is grateful for the believers at Ephesus.

Eph 1:16 Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;

Eph 5:4 Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.

18. Paul expresses how we should be thankful for all things.

Eph 5:20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

1Th 5:18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

19. Paul expresses thanksgiving for those in the Lychnus Valley.

Col 1:3 We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,

Col 1:12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

20. Paul expresses similar thanks for those in Thessalonica.

1Th 1:2 We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers;

1Th 3:9 For what thanks can we render to God again for you, for all the joy wherewith we joy for your sakes before our God;

2Th 2:13 But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:

21. Paul asks Timothy to exhort prayer for all men but especially those placed in positions of authority.

1Ti 2:1 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;

1Ti 2:2 For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

1Ti 2:3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;

22. The anonymous writer of the book of Hebrews urges believers to be continually thankful to God.

Heb 13:15 By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

23. In heaven raptured saints are seen praising God before His throne and giving thanks for the wrath of God which is about to descend on planet earth in the middle of the Tribulation.

Rev 4:9 And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth forever and ever,

Rev 11:17 Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.

24. The Old Testament is full of exhortations to praise and thank God for a plethora of actions and attributes; but often we are exhorted to thank Him for His simple presence.

End Lesson Taught 2-24-10