

BE THANKFUL

Introduction

- 1) **Colossians 3:12-15** – “...and be thankful” (v. 15); a simple, yet crucial exhortation
- 2) Each generation should be taught the important values of saying “please” and “thank you”
 - a) Reflection of politeness, respect, and thankfulness
- 3) God’s people should be thankful people (1 Chron. 16:8; Psa. 100:4; Phil. 4:6; Col. 4:2)
 - a) The failure to give God glory and thanks is among the first steps into apostasy (Rom. 1:21)
- 4) In a time filled with filthy and foolish talk, we need to emphasize the giving of thanks (Eph. 5:4)
- 5) The Bible shows that the attitude of thanksgiving should fill the heart of every Christian

I) **Giving Thanks in Everything (1 Thessalonians 5:18)**

- A) Reasons for God’s faithful people to give thanks
 - 1) God is good (Psa. 107:1, 8-9, 15, 21, 31, 43)
 - 2) God is in control (Job 1:21; Jonah 2:9)
 - 3) God provides (1 Tim. 4:3-5; 1 Cor. 11:24-25)
 - 4) God protects (Phil. 4:6-7)
 - 5) God gives victory (1 Cor. 15:57)
- B) The true test of giving thanks is doing so when we do *not* get what we want (2 Cor. 12:7-10)

II) **Lessons from a Thankful Leper (Luke 17:11-19)**

- A) Understand your need (vv. 12-13)
- B) Trust in those who can help (v. 14)
- C) Recognize the help you receive (v. 15)
- D) Remember to humbly give thanks (v. 16)

III) **Spiritual Attributes that Accompany Thankfulness (Colossians 3:12-17)**

- A) **Kindness** – tender mercies toward others, even those who are enemies
- B) **Patience** – longsuffering, meekness, humility of mind to give thanks to God
- C) **Forgiveness** – letting go of bitterness and resentment allows a return to thankfulness
- D) **Love** – loving God and our fellow man encourages a more thankful nature
- E) **Peace** – the peace of God ruling in the heart inspires gratitude and contentment
- F) **Wisdom** – using God’s truth to discern what we truly should be thankful for
- G) **Worship** – bringing our offerings to God from humble hearts full of gratitude
- H) **Service** – faithful obedience to God who gives all men life, breath, and all things

IV) **Three Aspects of Thankful Living (Psalm 131)**

- A) **Humility** (v. 1)
- B) **Contentment** (v. 2)
- C) **Trust** (v. 3)

Conclusion

*“As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, **abounding in it with thanksgiving**” (Col. 2:6-7)*

In the midst of a world that abounds in anger, fear, sickness, unrighteousness, and hopelessness, let us rejoice and be thankful to God for everything that we have and enjoy in Christ Jesus our Lord. Are you thankful? Are you saved in Jesus today? Be saved and join all the saints who are thankful for God and His blessings now and for eternity!