

## Be Thankful

Three concluding commands of Colossians 3:15-17:

1. Continue being at peace given by the Holy Spirit.  
“let the peace of Christ umpire in your hearts” (last week)
2. Continually thankful to God the Father. (this week)
3. To continue all your life getting to Know the teachings about Jesus Christ.

Continually thankful to God the Father

**Colossians 3:15 Let the peace of Christ umpire in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful**

This section of Col. 3 ends with three commands:

First command: let the peace of Christ umpire in your hearts

Second command: **be thankful**

**be** this is a *Present Active Imperative* of the Greek word meaning ‘to become,’ become something that you were not before. It does not mean to be something. Paul is beckoning them to become thankful. The *present tense* means to become this every day, throughout the day. The *active voice* hits hard at Calvinism. This is not something you are. This is something on which you have to make a daily decision: **keep on becoming thankful.**

**Be Thankful**  
**Colossians 3:15**

We are going to look at the doctrine of giving thanks to God. I have learned that what is stated first is what is most likely to be remembered. So, let's start off with three principles of introduction.

- 1. Giving thanks must be taught.** This is one of the first and most essential principles of life that parents should teach their children to be thankful. And parents you teach this in little things and big things and you teach them this in the morning, afternoon and evening. You teach this in obvious circumstances like Christmas and birthdays. But, you should teach them this throughout every day. Then, when they become believers in Jesus Christ they will be thankful to their God.
- 2. Giving thanks to God must be in the power of Holy Spirit.**
- 3. Things for which you are thankful, are the things you value in life.** If you give thanks to God for your husband, your wife, you will value them day in and day out. If you give thanks for your children, you will value them. If you give thanks for your church, then you will value your church and attend it regularly and support it. If you do not give thanks for your local church, then you will not value it or esteem it important in your life.

***Doctrine of Thanksgiving***

- I.** The most inclusive verse on thanksgiving is Eph. 5:20 where we are exhorted to always give thanks to God the Father for all things in the name or authority of Jesus Christ:
  - (1) always
  - (2) giving thanks

**Be Thankful**  
**Colossians 3:15**

- (3) for all things
- (4) in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ
- (5) to God, even the Father

The Greek word *thanksgiving* **eucharistia** is from **eucharistos**: **eu** means *well* + **charizomai** to give freely. The base word is from **charis**, grace. The verb form **chairō** means to rejoice, be thankful, grateful, gratitude for what God has done, is doing, or is going to do. As you can see this is a rich word. Thanksgiving involves grace of God, to which we respond joyfully in giving thanks.

**II.** Thanksgiving is required of every believer.

**1 Thessalonians 5:18 in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.**

Note four things:

1. Give thanks.
2. In or for everything.
3. This is the will of God...What is the Will of God? Well, I can tell you for certain that His will is for us to give thanks to Him for everything (good things and bad things).
4. This is His will in Jesus Christ. Thanksgiving is not designed for the unbeliever, for the unbeliever refuses to believe in Jesus Christ.

**Also: Colossians 4:2 Devote yourselves (daily devotion) to prayer, keeping alert in it (keeping**

**Be Thankful**  
**Colossians 3:15**

alert as to what you are praying) **with *an attitude of thanksgiving***;

**III.** There are a few requirements for bonified thanksgiving, thanksgiving that is accepted by God: **First in the power of the Holy Spirit and from a grateful heart.**

**IV.** We are to give thanks for all things. (1 Thessalonians 5:18 text above) and:

**Ephesians 5:20 always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;**

1. *Always* at all times.
2. *Giving thanks* even if we do not understand. We are to give thanks. Why? His plan is in progress and we may not understand His plan.
3. **For all things.** Again, we may not understand what is going on but we are to have the attitude from knowledge of the Word of God and from the power and leading of Holy Spirit to give thanks. It is amazing how God can turn seemingly bad things to wonderful blessings. In Acts, the spreading of the Church was primarily because of persecution. **always giving thanks for all things.**
4. Give thanks in the name, the authority of Jesus Christ, our Savior, His Son. Here you have to understand the intimate relationship between God the Father and His Son. Our thanksgiving comes through or on account of His Son.

**Be Thankful**  
**Colossians 3:15**

5. **to God** Thanksgiving is addressed to God the Father. This does not minimize Jesus Christ. Please remember this is why Jesus Christ came to the Earth: to reveal God the Father and to establish a relationship with God the Father. He is our Father because of our relationship with Jesus Christ, Baptism of the Holy Spirit into Jesus Christ. And now, we share His sonship. Remember that all through the Old Testament they did not pray to God as Father. They knew Him as Father but only after the coming of Jesus Christ do we address Him as Father. **Give thanks to God the Father in the power of Holy Spirit, in authority of Jesus Christ**

V. Give thanks for all things: 1 Thess 5:18 and Eph. 5:20, but also coming up in our study of Colossians.

**Colossians 3:17 Whatever you do in word (what you say) or deed, (what you physically do) do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, (there goes sins! Do it in the name, authority and will of our Lord Jesus; He is our Lord, who takes us to our Lord God the Father) giving thanks through Him (Jesus Christ) to God the Father.**

Thanksgiving is addressed to God the Father. I know there are people who think they are really spiritual because they give thanks to Jesus Christ or pray to Jesus Christ, but Scripture directs us to give thanks to God, the Father of Jesus Christ and our Father.

**VI.** Here is one that may escape you: We are to give thanks **for one another**. We should daily give thanks for husband/wife, children,

**Be Thankful**  
**Colossians 3:15**

parents, and fellow believers at church. Often Gerald Webber in Houston tells me to express to you his thanksgiving for you, that he has access to our studies in the Word of God. I give thanks for you when I study, thankful that you care enough and desire to learn more of the Word of God. There are so many passages that remind us to be in prayer for one another.

**1 Thessalonians 1:2 We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention *of you* in our prayers; (more than just giving thanks, but intercessory prayer for them).**

**1 Thessalonians 1:3 constantly bearing in mind (while in prayer) your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father,**

**1 Thessalonians 1:4 knowing, brethren beloved by God, *His* choice of you;**

**1 Thessalonians 1:5 for our gospel did not come to you in word only, (now he gives thanks for their response to the gospel) but also in power ~~and~~ even in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake.**

**Be Thankful  
Colossians 3:15**

**1 Thessalonians 1:6** You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, have received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit,

**1 Thessalonians 1:7** so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.

**1 Thessalonians 2:13** For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God (gospel) which you heard from us, you accepted *it* not as the word of men, but *for* what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe. (gives thanks for their Salvation)

**2 Thessalonians 1:3** We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brethren, as is *only* fitting, because your faith is greatly enlarged, and the love of each one of you toward one another grows *ever* greater;

**2 Thessalonians 1:4** therefore, we ourselves speak proudly of you among the churches of God for your perseverance and faith in the

**Be Thankful**  
**Colossians 3:15**

**midst of all your persecutions and afflictions  
which you endure.**

**VII.** Give thanks to God for His answers to your prayers and needs.

Philippians 4:6 **Be anxious for nothing.** First note the preposition **for**. There is no preposition in the original manuscripts: **nothing be anxious** not for or in, but this covers everything in life. We are not to be troubled about politics, wars, what is happening in America, moral decline, and not about anything in our own lives, finance, health, marriage etc. Nothing be anxious, worried about, troubled about. Now comes the big question: **Why not?** Things are falling apart, why not be anxious? **But** in contrast to being anxious **in everything** that is especially in reference to those things you would be anxious about. Be ready here: if you are not anxious about these things people will think you do not care! Think something is wrong with you! But in your soul you know why you are not anxious.

**by prayer and supplication.** What is the difference between prayer and supplication? First, note the conjunction translated **and** which seems to be saying **by prayer and by supplication**. Let me tell you about that conjunction AND. The Greek word *kai* takes up 4 ½ columns in a Greek lexicon; it conveys several different meanings. Here, “emphatic” or “specifically.” **by prayer specifically supplication.** This Greek word describes a certain category of prayers. The Greek word means *to make known one’s particular need*. In Classical Greek, it was used of a prisoner’s request, for freedom, as well as to deities. It means more than just a simple request! So here in Philippians chapter 4, it refers to a



**Be Thankful**  
**Colossians 3:15**

category of prayer, where we make known to Him a specific supplication of things really going out of the norm.

**Philippians 4:6 (Revised) nothing be anxious but in everything by prayer specifically supplication (now note what our mental attitude should be even in difficult times:) with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.**

You see people, when we pray to God with a mental attitude of thanksgiving, things happen in our souls...We are not focused on our difficulties but on the God who can do something about it...When you let God know your supplications with thanksgiving, note what happens in your soul:

**Philippians 4:7 And (now we have the resultant use of the conjunction *kai*) and now the peace of God which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**

Guard against what or who? Against Anxieties, worries, falling apart, against Stress, Anxiety, Depression (SAD). Keep you in peace. And people, sometimes this is all you desire, not things, not inner happiness but just peace in your soul, so you can sleep at night. Well, this is what you get from the Holy Spirit when you are in His Power and you make your supplications to Him with thanksgiving.

**Be Thankful**  
**Colossians 3:15**

**VIII.** We are to give thanks to God every time an unbeliever believes in Jesus Christ as Savior.

**2 Cor. 4:15** For all things are for your sakes, (benefit) so that the grace which is spreading to more and more people (that is the grace of the gospel, more and more people are believing in Jesus Christ as Savior) may cause (our response to the spreading of the Gospel, right here in our own country) the giving of thanks to abound (increase) to the glory of God. (for saving souls...)

So, tomorrow, day in and day out, thank God that people in America, throughout the world, are believing in Jesus Christ as Savior of their souls for all eternity.

**IX.** A local assembly of believers should be known for giving Thanks.

**Ephesians 5:3** But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints; (that is, it is proper among believers that these things are not mentioned among them).

**Ephesians 5:4** and *there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not*

**Be Thankful**  
**Colossians 3:15**

fitting, but rather **giving of thanks.** (For all God is doing.)

**X.** Thanksgiving is the result of all blessings God has given you:

**Colossians 2:6** Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, (starts with filling of the Holy Spirit) then

**Colossians 2:7** having been firmly rooted *and now* being built up in Him (Bible Doctrine) and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, *and overflowing with gratitude.*

**XI.** Legalism should always be countered with Thanksgiving.

**1 Timothy 4:3** *men* who forbid marriage *and advocate* abstaining from foods which God has created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth.

**1 Timothy 4:4** For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with gratitude;

**1 Timothy 4:5** for it is sanctified by means of the word of God and prayer.

**XII.** Warning in regards to giving thanks to God.

**Be Thankful**  
**Colossians 3:15**

**Psalm 50:22 “Now consider this, you who forget God, Or I will tear *you* in pieces, and there will be none to deliver.**

God Himself closes this Psalm with a severe warning in regard to Thanksgiving.

**Now consider this.** He starts out with the particle of exhortation. **Now:** urgency, it is time now to do something, before it is too late.

Next we have the *Qal imperative*. It is a command to stop emoting and stop thinking about yourself in the self-centered life and to start thinking, concentrating on what is going on in your life.

The verb means to *discern what is happening in your life*, to stop and take a look at all that is happening in your life. What you are doing with your life, your time, your money in reference to Christ!

This is one area where the believer must be honest – *do not lie or deceive yourself* --- you can lie to others, but the fool lies to himself about himself.

Next we have the demonstrative pronoun **this**. What are you to consider in verse 23? Something about offering thanksgiving. But, before we get to what you are to concentrate on in verse 23, let's look at the negative if you don't, in the rest of verse 22.

There is something you better know about not concentrating and about not offering thanksgiving.

Verse 22b God declares what happens if we do not offer thanksgiving. So you better do something about yourself, and your own attitude of

**Be Thankful**  
**Colossians 3:15**

thanksgiving. and you parents. Better do some very serious thinking about your children to have a constant attitude of thanksgiving to God and appreciation for life from God! and blessing from God. So many parents today actually contribute to the *me-generation* by failing to instill in their child's upbringing a mental attitude of thanksgiving but instead, an attitude that I *deserve everything and more*. So many people, young people, think their parents, and the government *owes them to take care of them and provide for them*.

**Psalm 50:22b ...now consider this, you who forget God...**

We have a Hebrew *Qal participle* describing a class of people throughout all history, **forgetful**.

Principle: This is the opposite of Thanksgiving. This word explains why people do not give thanksgiving to God. **they forget**. Unfortunately, many today have never learned to remember God. What this word conveys is very important to God for He never forgets His people:

**Isaiah 49:15 “Can a woman forget her nursing child And have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, but I will not forget you. (by application this refers to all members of /body of Christ)**

Now before I get to this on spiritual ground, I want to make sure you understand in the realm of common sense. So many people forget that you do not earn or deserve anything in life. You forget some basic

**Be Thankful**  
**Colossians 3:15**

principles about life. Husbands and wives soon forget and stop being thankful for their spouse; and then thanking their partner; *they stop appreciating* their partner and all they do. We reach the point where we assume they have to do all these things *because* they are our husband or our wife, that we do not have to say “Thank you” and both express gratitude. Sometimes this gets to the point where you actually think you *earn or deserve* everything they do for you -- expressing appreciation and thanks; a husband or wife who fails to express thanksgiving is thoughtless, rude and arrogant. In regard to your children, parents this is your responsibility to teach and train your children to have a mental attitude of thanksgiving and to be able to express thanksgiving This is part of life, but even more so for the believer who walks in the power and leading of Holy Spirit. This is part of the Spirit-filled life itself. This is also applicable in your work, home, romance, social life. Now back to our context.

**Psalm 50:22b ...now consider this, you who forget God...**

This is a description of America today.

What does it mean to *forget God*?

Obviously, we could spend months on this one but let's note some things in order.

- You forget that He is your Creator who gives you physical life. This is why they remove the Bible from our Judicial system, from our educational system and from churches.

**Be Thankful**  
**Colossians 3:15**

- You forget that He is your Savior and given you eternal life.
- You forget that He sent the Holy Spirit to dwell in you for your Spiritual Life.
- You forget that He is the source of every blessing.

These should lead to or cause Thanksgiving to God.

But forgetting these leads to living a self-centered life, living for your own benefit, your pleasure, rather than glory of Jesus Christ.

Believers who live self-centered lives are forgetful and ungrateful.

You live like you have forgotten that you are here by Grace and that you live by Grace.

Now what happens to people who forget God? Here is the warning.

**Psalm 50:22b ...Lest I tear you in pieces and  
there be none to deliver.**

OK, here is a warning to learn about God. Here is His mental attitude toward those who forget that He is! And stop giving Him thanksgiving.

**Lest** in Hebrew, is an *averting conjunction*. That is, if you want to avert God tearing you and your life into pieces then you better start paying attention and stop forgetting God and start offering thanksgiving to Him throughout the day.

**Tear you in pieces** in the Hebrew reveals the power and temperament of God. *It means to seize and tear apart*. It describes a most painful life or

**Be Thankful**  
**Colossians 3:15**

death. It means that God is going to reach down and seize the person and tear His life apart, which involves misery and pain.

And then God adds a little note in reference to His power and person.

You have forgotten that there is no power, no authority over His.

**Psalm 50:22c ...and there is none to deliver**

When you forget God you are concentrating on something or someone else to give your life meaning and give your life blessing and protection. But when you forget God, this also means that you have forgotten that there is no power, there is no one who can come to your rescue when God is bringing Divine Discipline.

We have the Hiphil of the Hebrew word for deliver. In the Hiphil it means *caused to be deliverance; caused to be snatched away from danger* and there will be none caused to deliver them.

See when you forget God, you place your confidence in something else to protect you from all the problems of the earth.

**Jeremiah 17:5...Cursed is he who trusts in man...**

**Psalm 50:23 “He who offers a sacrifice of thanksgiving honors Me; And to him who orders *his way aright* I shall show the salvation of God.”**

What happens when you offer thanksgiving to God? You Honor God!



**Be Thankful**  
**Colossians 3:15**

What happens is that you continue to fulfill your purpose here on earth. Most do not even know why they are here on earth. You are here to glorify God, glorify Jesus Christ. One way we glorify God is by faith. Another is by offering Thanksgiving.

**Psalm 50:23 He who offers a sacrifice of  
thanksgiving honors me...**

Now, we do not live in the age of sacrifices and rituals but we do live in a time/age, where we honor God by thanksgiving.

**To slaughter for sacrifice.** Instead of you being torn and slaughtered for your forgetfulness, your sacrifice is slaughtered. In the English, **offer a sacrifice** is all one word in the Hebrew.

Next, we have the kind of sacrifice: *tho-rah* Thanksgiving or as we have it here with sacrifice: **thank offering.**

***Summary of Thanksgiving from our context***

1. Giving thanks to God is first of all remembering God, the opposite of forgetting God. Instead of forgetting God when you offer Thanksgiving you are remembering God. You remember who He is and all He has done for you.
2. When you offer thanksgiving to God you not only are remembering all that God is, but you are remembering that you are totally dependent on God, that all you are and have is from the grace of God.

**Be Thankful**  
**Colossians 3:15**

3. Expressing thanksgiving is expressing gratitude for the being of God and for His blessings beginning with physical life and then eternal life.
4. Leviticus 7:12 The peace offering is designed to teach the Hebrews of the person and work of coming Messiah (Jesus Christ). But now, the Jews add a mental attitude of thanksgiving for the person and work of Messiah Jesus Christ (Leviticus 7:12-14).
5. In 2 Chronicles 29:31, thanksgiving must be from the desire and volition of the one who offers it. It is a response to what God has accomplished.
6. To the believer who is oriented to the Plan of God, thanksgiving is related even to death. Psalm 116:17, Glorifying God in Death
7. The Thank Offering is given in expression of thanks and praise of the deliverance of the Lord. Psa. 56
8. All grace of God is through His Son the person of Jesus Christ. Therefore, when you give thanksgiving you are occupied with Christ in that thanksgiving.

**Psalm 50:23a He who offers a sacrifice of  
thanksgiving honors me**

We are here to Glorify God before man and before angels in the Angelic Conflict. One way to do is by thanksgiving.

**Honors me.** This is the intensive Piel, which is the intense part of your life when you are glorifying God. The word means that you place something or someone as the heart and core of your existence, as you

**Be Thankful**  
**Colossians 3:15**

evaluate your life and your person. It is in relationship with Jesus Christ and the Plan of God for your life, that your life has any merit or value. When you forget God, when you forget Jesus Christ and live a self-centered life, you dishonor Him. But, when you give thanksgiving, you Honor Him in your life.

Now, the next line is the second result of not forgetting God and having a mental attitude of thanksgiving is that it effects the priorities in your life.

A husband or wife who daily gives thanks for each other will treat them right.

**Psalms 50:23b and to Him who order/sets his way aright**

In the Hebrew, we have two words (verb + noun: order/sets, way); verb: *Qal* to set or to put; noun: to commit. Commitment is no issue in Salvation. But it is an issue in the Spirit-filled life. You have to determine what is important in your life.

This means that when you have to make a decision you have already established the basis upon which you will make the choices you have to make.

Principle: You do not forget God, but think of Him, remember Him everyday, everytime you have to make a decision.

**Psalm 50:23c I shall show the salvation of God**

**I shal show.** The Hebrew word means to see or as we have it here in the *Hiphil*—*cause to see*. God will cause you to see.

**Be Thankful  
Colossians 3:15**

How does God cause us to see?

The word *Ra-ah* means to reveal or to illuminate and illumination is by the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the Word of God. This is an issue in the Gospel of John chapter 8 **abide in my word**

**Psalm 50:23c (revised translation) I will cause  
to see or have illuminated the  
salvation/deliverance of God**

Hebrew for salvation is *ye-sha* and it means here safety, welfare; deliverance by God.

Read Psalm 50:22-23

**Ephesians 5:20 always giving thanks for all  
things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to  
God, even the Father;**

**Psalm 50:23 He who offers a sacrifice of  
thanksgiving honors me and to Him who  
orders/sets his way aright I will cause to see  
the salvation/deliverance of God**

**Psalm 100**

**1 Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth.**

**2 Serve the LORD with gladness;**

**Come before Him with joyful singing.**

**3 Know that the LORD Himself is God;**

**It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves;**

***We are* His people and the sheep of His pasture.**

**4 Enter His gates with thanksgiving**

***And* His courts with praise.**

**Give thanks to Him, bless His name.**

**5 For the LORD is good;**

**His lovingkindness is everlasting**

**And His faithfulness to all generations.**