

Giving Thanks

What a wonderful way to end 2018 and enter 2019: Giving Thanks to our Heavenly Father in the name of Jesus Christ.

The book of Colossians is the most Christ-centered book of all 66 books of the Bible. It shouts the answer to ‘why Jesus Christ?’

In the first two chapters, Paul presents the preeminence of Jesus Christ.

He is preeminent in Creation of all things. Colossians 1:15-18. God the Father is not the creator. Jesus Christ, the second member of the Godhead, is the creator of all things. God the Father is the Author of all things.

He is preeminent in Redemption. Colossians 1:19-23. Jesus Christ supplied the completeness to our everlasting salvation. No works can even be added to our simple faith in Jesus Christ to be saved eternally.

He is preeminent in the Church. Colossians 1:24-2:3. He is the Head of the Church, of every church. Every pastor-teacher is but a shepherd of the Lord.

We speak of our being in Christ by the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. But, do not ever forget the great mystery: Christ In You, the Hope of Glory Colossians 1:27.

Chapter Two is devoted primarily to the protection of our faith in Jesus Christ. Colossians 2:5

Protection against enticing words by speakers. Colossians 2:4-7.

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It is here that Paul tells us how we are filled by the Holy Spirit: ‘as you have received Him so walk in Him.’ It is a walk that is by faith. Colossians 2:6.

Protection against vain philosophies. Colossians 2:8-10.

Protection against being judged by others. Colossians 2:11-17.

It is here that we find the important passage that the Mosaic Law has been removed from us by nailing it to the cross. Colossians 2:14.

Protection of Rewards at the Judgment seat of Christ. Colossians 2:18-19.

Remember that after the Rapture of the Church, every believer will stand before Jesus Christ at the Judgment Seat of Christ to have his/her life evaluated by Jesus Christ. Did you live by faith in the Holy Spirit or by the power of the flesh?

Then in Chapter Three: The believer’s union with Christ in His Death, Burial, Resurrection, Ascension and Session at the right hand of God is the foundation upon which we are to live our daily lives.

Since you have died with Christ (Colossians 2:20)

Since you have been raised up with Christ (Colossians 3:1)

—Let the peace of Christ umpire in your hearts (Colossians 3:15)

—Always being Thankful (Colossians 3:15)

—Let the Word of Christ dwell in you (Colossians 3:16). Continue all your life getting to Know the teachings about Jesus Christ.

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Colossians 3:17 and all, whatever things if you do in word or deed *do* in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him (Jesus Christ) to God the Father

Giving thanks. This is not an *imperative* but a *Present Active Participle* used here to emphasize the point that this should characterize our lives, everyday of our lives. You brush your teeth, comb your hair, put on cloths and give thanks to God. It should be that much of a routine.

Constantly giving thanks through Him. Everything we have comes through our Lord Jesus Christ, even the privilege of thanksgiving, everything: our Salvation, our spirituality, blessings in time and eternity and the joy of giving thanks.

Constantly giving thanks through Him to the God even the Father. There are people who want to give thanks to Jesus Christ, or even to the Holy Spirit. But, the Word of God makes it clear that we are to pray to God the Father. Let your prayers, your thanksgiving, be in accordance with the Word of God which directs us:

- (1) to ‘give thanks to God the Father’
- (2) ‘through or by the authority of Jesus Christ’
- (3) in the power and leading of the Holy Spirit. People, if you desire to follow Jesus Christ, then follow Him in His prayers of Thanksgiving.

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Notes on Thanksgiving from the Word of God

I. The most inclusive verse on thanksgiving is Ephesians 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
- (3) for all things
- (4) in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ
- (5) to God, even the Father

II. Thanksgiving is required of every believer.

III. We are not to give thanks to Jesus Christ but follow Him in our prayers of thanksgiving. Be thankful as Christ was Thankful. We are to follow Him, we are to love as He loved and we are to pray as He prayed and we are to give thanks as He gave thanks.

- (1) Jesus Christ gave thanks for food. John 6:5-11; Matt. 15:32-39; Mark 8:1-10; (Paul follows Acts 27:34-38).
- (2) Jesus Christ gave thanks for answered prayer. John 11:41 **Father I thank you that you have heard me** (John 11:38-44).
- (3) Jesus Christ gave thanks for His own suffering on the cross. At the last supper Jesus Christ gave thanks for the bread and wine, the cross. Luke 22:14-20; Mark 14:17-26; Matt. 26:26-30; 1 Cor. 11:23-26.

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(4) Jesus Christ gave thanks by praise to God His Father for Revealing and Concealing His Will. Luke 10:21.

IV. There are a few requirements for bonified thanksgiving, thanksgiving that is accepted by God:

- (1) In the power of the Holy Spirit and from a grateful heart. Eph. 6:18; Jude 20; Rom. 8:26. When we pray in the power and leading of the Holy Spirit, we are assured that our prayers are in agreement with the Plan of God.
- (2) Thanksgiving is always addressed to God the Father. Col. 3:17.
- (3) In the name or authority or relationship of Jesus Christ. Col. 3:17 Eph.5:20.
- (4) We are to give thanks for all things. (1 Thessalonians 5:18; Eph. 5:20). Yes, even for the bad things that happen and for the disappointments in life. Give thanks to God for His answers to your prayers and needs.
- (5) We are to continually give thanks. Col. 3:17; Eph. 5:20
Principle: What you continually give thanks for are the things you will value and protect in your life: your salvation; your filling by the Holy Spirit; your spouse, your local church, your pastor-teacher, your job, your friends, opportunities to witness for Jesus Christ.
- (6) Continually giving thanks expresses capacity for life – capacity for freedom, capacity for adversity and capacity for

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comfort. And capacity for life, which includes capacity for thanksgiving which comes from the Holy Spirit by means of growing in the Word of God. True thanksgiving is not an emotional response but a response of the truth that is in your soul.

(7) Thanksgiving should always emphasize the person not the gift. For the Christian, thanksgiving emphasizes God the Father, the giver of the gift and Jesus Christ the person through whom we receive the gift.

V. Here is one that may escape you: We are to give thanks for one another. We should daily give thanks for husband/wife, children, parents, and fellow believers at church. Often Gerald Webber in Houston and Phyllis Muessig, in Florida.; Don Becker, in Iowa, Cindy Edwards and Mike Beall in Texas tell me to express to you their thanksgiving for you, that they have access to our studies in the Word of God. And 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.

VI. 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

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in Jesus Christ as Savior) **may cause** (this introduces our response to the spreading of the Gospel, right here in our own country) **may cause 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.

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

Spring Valley Bible Church should be known for giving thanks for all the opportunities He gives us to share the gospel and for growth in His Word.

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

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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 (by means of Bible Doctrine) and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, *and overflowing with gratitude.*

IX. Biblical warning against not giving thanks.

Warning in regards to giving thanks to God.

God Himself closes Psalm 50 with a severe warning in regard to Thanksgiving.

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

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 and what is not 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

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your life, your time, your money in reference to Christ! This is an excellent end of the year and bringing in the New Year.

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 the next verse? 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 offer thanksgiving, in the rest of verse 22.

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

In verse 22b God declares what happens if we do not offer thanksgiving. So, you better do something about yourself, and your own attitude of 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 22b ...now consider this, you who forget God...

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

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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, and in the Church Age this is you!

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 the body of Christ.)

I want to make sure you understand this in the spiritual realm. So many people forget that you do not earn or deserve anything from God in life. You forget some basic principles about life. Husbands and wives soon forget and stop being thankful for their spouse; *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.” Sometimes, this gets to the point where you actually think you *earn or deserve* everything they do for you. 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 the Holy Spirit. This is

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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. So they can teach evolution instead of thankfulness for creation.

--You forget that He is your Savior who gave you eternal life.

--You forget that He sent the Holy Spirit to dwell in you for your Spiritual Life.

--You forget that He has graciously given to us His Word in writing for our learning.

--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.

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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.

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

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

Lest. In Hebrew, this 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 death. It means that God is going to reach down and seize the person, or nation 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.

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.

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We have the *Hiphil* of the Hebrew word for deliver. In the *Hiphil* it means *caused to be delivered; 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...

Now we come to the close of this 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/deliverance of God.”

What happens when you offer thanksgiving to God?

You Honor God!

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 50:23a 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.

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To slaughter for sacrifice. Instead of you being torn and slaughtered for your forgetfulness, your sacrifice is slaughtered. 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.
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.

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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. Psalm 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 this 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 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. 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: 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 every day, every time you have to make a decision.

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

I shall 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.

How does God cause us to see?

The word *Ra-ah* means to reveal or to illuminate. 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.

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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.

Let's close this year and bring in the New Year with an attitude of thanksgiving to our Heavenly Father because of our position in Christ.