



## The Thankful Church Pt 1: God's Word on Thankfulness!

November 1, 2020

### **Text: Col 3:1-17**

- The original plan for November 2020 was to teach solely on *Resources and God's Word on Stewardship and Thankful Giving*.
- Given how his year has played out...with all the unforeseen events we've all been experiencing...and a very tumultuous election before us, we believe a few reminders of the Scriptural mandate for Thankfulness may be in order. (Note: Stay tuned for a Stewardship message at the end of November.)
- **In other words, with so much negative news, refocusing on Thankfulness, with the Spirit's help, will refresh our souls!**
- So as we read the Scriptures in our November messages, let us consider the following propositions:
  1. Thankfulness is commanded: God loves thankful hearts!
  2. Thankfulness increases as we focus on Christ.
  3. Thankfulness comes from an understanding of God's grace.
  4. Thankfulness emerges from a prayer and praise filled-life.
  5. Thankfulness suggests a shift in perspective.
  6. Thankfulness flows from contentment.
  7. Thankfulness is a shield against sin.
  8. Thankfulness is a cure for depression and loneliness.
  9. Thankfulness is attractive; good people are drawn to humility and joy.
  10. Thankfulness is expressed in word and deed.
- Therefore our goal this month is simple but VERY spiritually meaningful: **That CRC would become a church bursting with Thanksgiving and Praise for all our LORD has done!**
- One more proposition:

**Christians should be the happiest, most joyful, most thankful people on the planet, and this thankfulness should explode out of our hearts, show on our faces, and be manifest in our actions!**
- So if you find yourself struggling with ungratefulness, may our LORD heal and transform your heart throughout November!

### **Thoughts on our Text**

1. "Colosse was a city in Phrygia, in the Roman province of Asia (part of modern Turkey), about 100 miles east of Ephesus in the region of the seven churches of Revelation 1-3. Although Colosse's population was mainly Gentile, there was a large Jewish settlement dating from the days of Antiochus the Great (223-187 B.C.). Colosse's mixed population of Jews and Gentiles manifested itself both in the composition of the church and in the heresy that plagued it, which contained elements of both Jewish legalism and pagan mysticism.

This letter was written from prison in Rome ([Act 28:16-31](#)) sometime between A.D. 60-62 and is, therefore, referred to as a prison epistle (along with Ephesians, Philippians, and Philemon).” - MacArthur

2. After extensive teaching on the Deity of Christ (Chps 1/2) and against legalism (2:16-23), Paul exhorts the church in Chapter 3 in good christian living. Consequently, ALL these exhortations will increase our daily Thankfulness!
  - Since you are risen with Christ, seek heavenly things where Christ is! (v1)
  - Set your affections (mind/heart) on heavenly things! (v2)
  - Remember you are dead to this life and alive in Jesus! (v3)
  - Christ IS our life! He’s coming back and we’ll be with Him in glory! (v4)
  - With this in mind, kill sin and flesh! (v5)
  - Remember how God feels about sin: wrath is coming. (v6)
  - Remember also that you used to do these things! (v7)
  - But no more; put that stuff away! (v8)
  - Don’t lie; that is characteristic of the old man. (v9)
  - We are “new and renewed” men and women in the knowledge of our Creator! (v10)
  - Even our ethnic or social distinctions aren’t a barrier to our oneness in Christ! (v11)
  - God’s people are elect (chosen!) and must live like it! (v12)
  - We can, in Jesus, forbear and forgive! (v13)
  - We can be, by God’s power, clothed and united in love (charity)! (v14)
  - God has given us peace; He desires a unified body; and that body has every reason to be thankful! (v15)
  - From thankful hearts should flow one-anothering and praise! (v16)
  - Also from such hearts should flow **a life of thankfulness** for all God has done! (v17)
3. In one chapter, I can see the picture of **The Thankful Church**: focused on Christ with a heavenly perspective, pursuing personal holiness, grateful for deliverance and redemption, careful with how it speaks to others, unified as one in Jesus, kind, humble, patient, loving, and thankful!
4. Stunningly, the word for *thankful* in verse 15 in Greek is *eucharistos*; in verse 17, *thanks* is *eucharisteō*. They simply mean to be “grateful” or “give thanks.” These words however, are very similar to *eucharistia* or Eucharist, which means “thanksgiving.” Although protestants do not use the word Eucharist to refer to the LORD’s table, it is interesting that a near synonym for the LORD’s Table is “Thanksgiving!” Our thankfulness is always based in the Gospel of Christ!
5. In order to “do all in the Name of the LORD Jesus, giving thanks,” let us search the Scriptures concerning call and command to be thankful.

### **God’s Word on Thankfulness**

### **A Sacrifice of Thanksgiving with a Peace Offering**

**Leviticus 7:11-15 (KJV)** *And this is the law of the sacrifice of peace offerings, which he shall offer unto the LORD. 12 If he offer it for a thanksgiving, then he shall offer with the sacrifice of thanksgiving unleavened cakes mingled with oil, and unleavened wafers anointed with oil, and cakes mingled with oil, of fine flour, fried. 13 Besides the cakes, he shall offer for his offering leavened bread with the sacrifice of thanksgiving of his peace offerings. 14 And of it he shall offer one out of the whole oblation for an heave offering unto the LORD, and it shall be the priest's that sprinkleth the blood of the peace offerings. 15 And the flesh of the sacrifice of his peace offerings for thanksgiving shall be eaten the same day that it is offered; he shall not leave any of it until the morning.*

**Leviticus 22:29 (KJV)** *And when ye will offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving unto the LORD, offer it at your own will.*

- A peace offering was an animal. To show additional thanksgiving to God, cakes and wafers were added. Also, unleavened bread was added. A characteristic of thankfulness was the desire to “do” or “sacrifice” more for and to God!
- One loaf from each offering was to be a “heave” offering...an offering to be physically lifted up to God.
- The peace and thanksgiving offering was to be consumed on the same day. Perhaps yesterday’s thankful heart will not suffice for today. New thanks must be cultivated and offered again!
- Thanksgiving is free will; it must come from the heart!

### **The Ark comes to Jerusalem**

**1 Chronicles 16:8 (KJV)** *Give thanks unto the LORD, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the people.*

**1 Chronicles 16:34 (KJV)** *O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever.*

**1 Chronicles 16:37-41 (KJV)** *So he left there before the ark of the covenant of the LORD Asaph and his brethren, to minister before the ark continually, as every day's work required: 38 And Obedom with their brethren, threescore and eight; Obedom also the son of Jeduthun and Hosah to be porters: 39 And Zadok the priest, and his brethren the priests, before the tabernacle of the LORD in the high place that was at Gibeon, 40 To offer burnt offerings unto the LORD upon the altar of the burnt offering continually morning and evening, and to do according to all that is written in the law of the LORD, which he commanded Israel; 41 And with them Heman and Jeduthun, and the rest that were chosen, who were expressed by name, to give thanks to the LORD, because his mercy endureth for ever;*

### **Various Psalms**

**Psalms 30:4 (KJV)** *Sing unto the LORD, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.*

**Psalms 35:18 (KJV)** *I will give thee thanks in the great congregation: I will praise thee among much people.*

**Psalms 50:14 (KJV)** Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High:  
**Psalms 69:30 (KJV)** I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving.

### **Sing songs of Thanksgiving!**

**Psalms 75:1 (KJV)** **To the chief Musician, Altaschith, A Psalm or Song of Asaph.**  
Unto thee, O God, do we give thanks, unto thee do we give thanks: for that thy name is near thy wondrous works declare.

**Psalms 92:1-2 (KJV)** **A Psalm or Song for the sabbath day.** It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High: **2** To shew forth thy lovingkindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night.

**Psalms 95:1-3 (KJV)** O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. **2** Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms. **3** For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

**Psalms 100:1-4 (KJV)** **A Psalm of praise.** Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. **2** Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. **3** Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. **4** Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.

### **Requires sacrifice and humility!**

**Psalms 107:21-22 (KJV)** Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! **22** And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare his works with rejoicing.

**Psalms 116:16-17 (KJV)** O LORD, truly I am thy servant; I am thy servant, and the son of thine handmaid: thou hast loosed my bonds. **17** I will offer to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the LORD.

### **In the Prophets**

**Daniel 6:10 (KJV)** Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.

**Isaiah 51:3 (KJV)** For the LORD shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody.

**Jeremiah 30:19 (KJV)** And out of them shall proceed thanksgiving and the voice of them that make merry: and I will multiply them, and they shall not be few; I will also glorify them, and they shall not be small.

**Jonah 2:9-10 (KJV)** *But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD. 10 And the LORD spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land.*

### **In the Church**

**Ephesians 5:1-4 (KJV)** *Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; 2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour. 3 But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; 4 Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.*

**Ephesians 5:18-20 (KJV)** *And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; 19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; 20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;*

**Philippians 4:6-7 (KJV)** *Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. 7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

**1 Thessalonians 5:18 (KJV)** *In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*

### **Over Food**

**1 Timothy 4:4-5 (KJV)** *For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: 5 For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.*

### **In Revelation**

**Revelation 7:9-12 (KJV)** *After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; 10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. 11 And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, 12 Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.*

### **Finally, the Son to the Father**

**Matthew 11:25-30 (KJV)** *At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes. 26 Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight. 27 All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but*

*the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him. 28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*

### **Closing Thoughts and Prayer:**

Charles Spurgeon said, “Here is a standing reason for thanksgiving. Although we may not always be healthy, nor always prosperous, yet God is always good, and, therefore, there is always a sufficient argument for giving thanks unto Jehovah. That he is a good God essentially, that he cannot be otherwise than good, should be a fountain out of which the richest praises should perpetually flow.”

Oh Lord, as we consider Thy goodness next week, and it would be Thy will, all the great things Thou hast done for Thy people the following week, our prayer is that you would fill our hearts with Thanksgiving. Help us to be a thankful people, and help that thankfulness to be obvious to Heaven and Earth...to all who look up on us...to our neighborhoods and communities, and those in our households.

Forgive us for seasons of ungratefulness, unhelpful comparisons, and our constant loss of perspective.

We are thankful LORD, for Thee and Thy manifold blessings.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.