

Practices of Those Who are Thankful

Colossians 3:15-17

I. A Desire to Recline in the Peace of Jesus Christ (Colossians 3:15) Paul's instructions to the Colossian church were filled with the natural act of thanksgiving. In fact practicing thanksgiving and being born again go hand and hand. In the first few verses of chapter 3 Paul writes: "If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory." The next verses 5-9 illustrate sins that need to be put to death and in verses 10-17 Paul conveys what the risen life looks like. This is a picture of what those who are a new creation should practice!

When you recline, you are no longer concerned about the raging storm, because the peace of God through Jesus Christ holds you secure! After a church member had been falling asleep for several years during the sermon part of the worship service, the pastor finally got up enough nerve to ask him why he slept during the sermon. The pastor was hoping to hear that the man has taking medication that caused him to sleep or that he worked the night shift at work, or even that he had restless nights. The man's reply to the pastor was: "pastor, I feel at peace with God's Word being preached, I'm so confident that my heart and soul can rest, and I guess my body follows suit."

What does allowing the peace of Christ to rule look like? It looks like verses 12-14. It's practicing thanksgiving! Love for Christ and from Christ gives birth to kindness, humility, patience, forgiveness, and etc. We are to be thankful and recline in the peace of Jesus Christ! The word "peace" in this context means agreement, bond, treaty, pact, rest and security. For the Christian, the war between a righteous holy God and a sinner are over, we are at peace, because are His children. It reminds me of Romans 5:1 ***"Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."*** We are able to give thanks for God's peace!

II. A Dedication to Relish the Word of God and to Sing His Praises (Colossians 3:16) You can tell that a person is thankful if they spend a lot of time learning all they can about that item. You know you have given a man a great Christmas gift if he spends the afternoon reading the instructions concerning that gift! Paul tells the Romans in (Romans 10:17) ***"So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."*** Our fuel for daily life is found in God's Word, growing in faith, and is spilled out through praise! If you really love someone or something, you will talk about that someone or something.

The word dwell here means to live in! Live in the Word! A person dwelling in the Word is a person who is led by the Holy Spirit and is thankful! Praise is the byproduct of our extreme pleasure in Christ! Our extreme pleasure in Christ comes as a result of being in His Word!

The Word of God teaches us and the Word of God corrects us. Hebrews 4:12 shares this fact: ***“For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”*** I’m thankful that God’s Word is like a surgical knife, cutting away sin and building up spiritual strength.

III. A Determination to Redeem Every Day for the Glory of God (Colossians 3:17) This verse is very similar to 1 Cor. 10:31 ***“Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”*** The way to show your thankfulness in Christ and for Christ is to live your life with complete joy in Him! When is the proper time to give thanks? Always! Ephesians 5:20 ***“giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,”***

So the practices of thankful people or those who are born again are: 1. They recline in the peace of Christ, 2. They relish the Word and praise of God. 3. They redeem every day for God’s glory.