

Keys to Thankfulness

Colossians 3.15-17

As believers in Christ we certainly should be living in thanksgiving, considering all God has done for us. As Christians, we should be displaying an attitude of gratitude. Unfortunately, all too often we do not.

In our text today, we find an emphasis on thanksgiving. Our text instructs us on three essentials of the new life in Christ. The three verses of our focus today cover the peace of Christ, the word of Christ, and the name of Christ. But in each verse we also find an emphasis on giving thanks. It seems that as we apply the truth concerning his peace, word and name, we will also find ourselves manifesting the fruit of a thankful heart.

Allow His Peace to Rule You

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Colossians 3.15

The Scriptures speak of two kinds of peace. The first is peace **with** God.

Because we have made peace *with* God, we can now experience the peace **of** God.

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of **peace**. Ephesians 4.3

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And **the peace of God**, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4.4-7

Allow His Word to Dwell In You

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. Colossians 3.16

As Christians, we are committed to walk in God's word. The word of God, the Bible, is what gives us the knowledge of his will. And so you are exhorted to let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. This means that you must allow his word to saturate you.

In order for God's word to saturate us, we must begin to deal with it on several levels.

- First we must **read** it.
- But then we must also **study** it.
- Further, we must then **meditate** upon what God is saying to us through that word.
- We must spend some quality time thinking about how to **apply the truth of God's word to our lives**.
- We should also spend time **memorizing** the word of God.
- We need to spend time **discussing** God's word with others in Bible studies.
- And finally, but most importantly, we need to step out in faith and **obey** God's word.

Allow His Name to Dominate You

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3.17