

With Thanksgiving  
Colossians 4:2

*Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;*

INTRO: Our text verse today reminds us of I Thessalonians 5:18: *In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*

We are to have thankful hearts. We are to have an attitude of gratitude.

We are:

- Count your blessings instead of your crosses;
- Count your gains instead of your losses.
- Count your joys instead of your woes;
- Count your friends instead of your foes.
- Count your smiles instead of your tears;
- Count your courage instead of your fears.
- Count your full years instead of your lean;
- Count your kind deeds instead of your mean.
- Count your health instead of your wealth;
- Count on God instead of yourself. (Copied)

I. THANKSGIVING IS A MAJOR THEME IN THE BOOK OF COLOSSIANS.

A. Five times in the Epistle of the Colossians, Paul emphasizes the importance of an attitude of appreciation for the blessings of God on the believer:

1. Thanksgiving for salvation– 1:12-14.
  - a. Vs 12, Thanks to the Father for His love toward the elect (I John 4:9-10; 14).
  - b. Vs 13, Thanks to God for deliverance. The Greek word for “delivered” *rhuomai*, “to draw to ones self, to rescue, to deliver.”
  - c. Vs 14, We are to thank God for “redemption.” “Redemption” – Greek *apolutrosis* meaning, “to deliver by the payment of a ransom.” The price of our redemption is the blood of Jesus (Eph 1:7).
  - d. Vs 14b, Thanks for forgiveness of sins. Forgiveness is “the pardon or remission of the penalty, with the idea to send away.” Romans 8:33 says: *Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God’s elect? It is God that justifieth.* J. P. McBeth says: “Who, what personality, shall criminate the character of (the) elect

of God, ‘while God’ is declaring them righteous?”  
Dear believer, you cannot be impeached by Satan or anyone else.

2. Thanksgiving for Christian growth – 2:6-7.
  - a. We are to be thankful for being “rooted.” Rooted is in the perfect participle passive meaning “once and for all having been rooted.” Isaiah 61:3 calls God’s born again ones the planting of the Lord.
  - b. As trees grow, we are to grow in grace.
3. Thanksgiving for the peace of God and for the local church – 3:15.
  - a. Peace- this peace is the conviction that the sins of the past, present, and future are forgiven. Thank God!
  - b. This peace is the peace that Christ brings to believers (Jn 14:27 *Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*)
4. Thanksgiving for the opportunity to serve – 3:17.
  - a. We are to do right and enjoy doing it. Our living for the Lord is not to be done with reluctance or despair, but “giving thanks.....” We are to do all in Jesus name. What can you do in Jesus name? I Cor. 10:31, *Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.*
  - b. “Giving thanks.”
    - 1- Thank God for our mission work.
    - 2- Thank God for every visit made, every phone call, every tract given, etc.
5. Thank God for all the blessings given to believers by God – 4:2. “Count your blessings, name them one by one.”
  - a. Thanks for the presence fo God (Deut. 31:6; Heb 13:5).
  - b. Thanks for the Gospel – Rom 1:16, *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.* Not ashamed; but thankful.
  - c. Thankful for daily provision.
    - 1- Mat 6:11, *Give us this day our daily bread.*
    - 2- Psalm 68:19 *Blessed be the Lord, who daily*

*loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation. Selah. We have a load of benefits.*

- d. *Where shall we begin to survey this vast load of mercies? Were it no more, but that he hath given us a world to live in, a life to enjoy, air to breathe in, earth to tread on, fire to warm us, water to cool and cleanse us, clothes to cover us, food to nourish us, sleep to refresh us, houses to shelter us, variety of creatures to serve and delight us; here were a just load. But now, if we yet add to these, civility of breeding, dearness of friends, competency of estate, degrees of honour, honesty or dignity of vocation, favour of princes, success in employments, domestic comforts, outward peace, good reputation, preservation from dangers, rescue from evils; the load is well mended. If yet, ye shall come closer, and add due proportion of body, integrity of parts, perfection of senses, strength of nature, mediocrity of health, sufficiency of appetite, vigour of digestion, wholesome temper of seasons, freedom from cares; this course must needs heighten it yet more. If still ye shall add to these, the order, and power, and exercise of our inward faculties, enriched with wisdom, art, learning, experience, expressed by a not un-handsome elocution, and shall now lay all these together that concern estate, body, mind: how can the axle-tree of the soul but crack under the load of these favours?*  
(Spurgeon Vol III 248-249)

- B. In light of all that God has done for us, what should we do?
1. Give thanks through praise and singing. (Psa 30:13; 69:30; 95:2).
  2. Thank God for Jesus. II Cor 9:15 *Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.*

## II. THANKFUL BECAUSE

- A. We are to be abundantly thankful that – only you and God have all the facts about you.
- B. It is what is in your heart, not what is in your pocket that makes you thankful.
- C. We don't get all we want – be thankful you don't get what you

deserve.

- D. Even though the first hour of my days is hectic when socks are lost, toast is burned, and tempers are short. Thank you Lord, for my family. There are many who are lonely.

CONCLUSION: *In everything give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you (I Thes 5:18).*

Nov 22, 2009

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