

Lesson 33
Be Ye Thankful
Col 3:15-17

Col 3:15-17 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. 17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

KJV

In this passage of Scripture Paul leads his readers from the predispositions of peaceful unity between believers to the application of the Rule of Christ in every activity.

I. Peace of God

- a. Let the peace of Christ **judge**, decide, and govern in your hearts, as the judge does in the Olympic contests.
- b. Let the peace of Christ act as umpire when wrong passions arise, and let Him **restrain them**. 2 Cor 10:5
- c. No heart is **right with** God where the peace of Christ does not rule. Phil 4:7
- d. When peace is lost, it is proof that one has lost something else; that he has given way to evil, and **grieved** the Spirit of God. Eph 4:29-32

II. Thankful

- a. Be (become) thankful - for your 'calling.' Thanksgiving is prominent in Paul: **forty-one times** he uses the word.
- b. Not to have 'peace ruling in your hearts' would be practical **unthankfulness** to God who called us. Eph 5:1-4,19-20
- c. A spirit of thankfulness, tends to promote harmony and peace and order and gratitude to God for **his mercies**. Phil 4:6

III. Teaching and Admonishing

- a. **Psalms and hymns** were to be regarded as a method of "teaching" and "admonishing;" Eph 5:19-20
- b. Songs should be imbued with truth and **sound doctrine** and should elevate the mind, and draw us to God. James 5:13
- c. Within our homes we are to be full of the **Word of Christ** in the heart that our mouths would utter hymns of instruction, admonition, and praise. Deut 6:7
- d. We make no melody unless we sing with grace in our hearts; unless we are affected by what we sing and believe it with true devotion and **understanding**. Ps 47:6-7
- e. Tertullian records that at the love-feasts anyone who had remembrance of Scripture, or could compose, was invited to **sing praises** to God.

IV. All To The Glory of God

- a. Whatever you say or do-whether relating to **temporal affairs** or to religion; do all in the name of the Lord Jesus
- b. We honor him and His authority when **His glory** is the aim of all our actions and words. 1 Cor 10:31
- c. We glorify God by constantly **remembering** His goodness in providing a Savior for our lost and ruined soul. 2 Cor 5:14-15.

Lesson 33
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- d. To live in the name of the Lord Jesus obviates the necessity for rules; inward motivation replaces external ones. Gal 5:18
- e. His Lordship of the whole of life implies not only a mode of conduct but an attitude toward life and toward others.
- f. When we consciously reflect upon the will of Christ, our actions become an act of thanksgiving to Christ.

V. Application

- a. Thankfulness is important to God. Ps 100:4. Rom 1:21
- b. In what ways do you express your thankfulness to God? To others?
- c. To what extent do you see yourself as a thankful person?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Not at all		Somewhat		Mostly		Constantly	
- d. What do you need to do to improve in the area of thankfulness?

The Twenty-Fifth Chapter THE BASIS OF FIRM PEACE OF HEART AND TRUE PROGRESS
THE VOICE OF CHRIST :MY CHILD, I have said: "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, do I give unto you." 34 All men desire peace but all do not care for the things that go to make true peace. My peace is with the humble and meek of heart: your peace will be in much patience. If you hear Me and follow My voice, you will be able to enjoy much peace.
THE DISCIPLE :What, then, shall I do, Lord?

THE VOICE OF CHRIST : Watch yourself in all things, in what you do and what you say. Direct your every intention toward pleasing Me alone, and desire nothing outside of Me. Do not be rash in judging the deeds and words of others, and do not entangle yourself in affairs that are not your own. Thus, it will come about that you will be disturbed little and seldom.
Yet, never to experience any disturbance or to suffer any hurt in heart or body does not belong to this present life, but rather to the state of eternal rest. Do not think, therefore, that you have found true peace if you feel no depression, or that all is well because you suffer no opposition. Do not think that all is perfect if everything happens just as you wish. And do not imagine yourself great or consider yourself especially beloved if you are filled with great devotion and sweetness. For the true lover of virtue is not known by these things, nor do the progress and perfection of a man consist in them.
THE DISCIPLE : In what do they consist, Lord?

THE VOICE OF CHRIST : They consist in offering yourself with all your heart to the divine will, not seeking what is yours either in small matters or great ones, either in temporal or eternal things, so that you will preserve equanimity and give thanks in both prosperity and adversity, seeing all things in their proper light.

If you become so brave and long-suffering in hope that you can prepare your heart to suffer still more even when all inward consolation is withdrawn, and if you do not justify yourself as though you ought not be made to suffer such great things, but acknowledge Me to be just in all My works and praise My holy name -- then you will walk in the true and right path of peace, then you may have sure hope of seeing My face again in joy. If you attain to complete contempt of self, then know that you will enjoy an abundance of peace, as much as is possible in this earthly life. (from Imitation of Christ, Electronic Database Copyright (c)1999 by Biblesoft)

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