

“15 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.”
(Col 3:15-17)

Thankfulness is a primary requirement for taking part of the Lord's Supper; hence, it is a requirement for all of life. The Lord Supper is a sacramental feast representing how we are to live every day. Question 81 of the HC cites the following requirements:

Repentance: Displeased with themselves and their sins.

Faith: Trust that these sins forgiven and our remaining infirmity is covered by the blood of Christ.

Resolution. Desire more and more to strengthen their faith and live a godly life

Warning: Impenitent and hypocrites eat and drink judgment to themselves.

To set the stage the verses cited above:: Listen very carefully: Review: Paul is solemnly directing the church to Christ. He is the head of the body, the church, It is Christ who must have the preeminence, for it pleased the Father that all fullness should dwell in Christ. Two dangers faced the Church at Colosse: They are not to be taken away from Christ by the inflated claims of those who spoke of fullness power and principalities Greek prognostics, for all these are under Jesus Christ. They are not to be diverted by Jewish ceremonies and commandments for these have all been taken away, nailed to His Cross.

They are complete in Jesus Christ and are to be rooted and built up in Christ and stablished in the faith.

They are to walk in Jesus Christ in the same way that they received Him. chapter 2:6-10. They had begun in faith and so were to continue in faith, and not be spoiled by philosophy or vain deceit. The death of Christ is their death to the rudiments of the world, the traditions of men, and all glory in the flesh.

They are called to newness of life, because of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. They are to put off the old, and put on the new. The old is what they inherited from Adam--everything they could boast in naturally--the new is Christ, that which is received by the grace of God through faith.

So they are to put off--put to death their members on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, covetousness; as well as anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication from their mouths, and lying.

They were to put on the new man, which is created in knowledge after the image of him that created him. For circumcision (vs. 11) is finished in Christ, and we are one in Christ. 3:11.

Because we are one in Christ, we are to put on mercies, kindness, humbleness, meekness, long suffering, forbearance, and forgiveness, for this is the will of Christ, and He gave us the pattern for it.

More than all, we are to put on charity, which is bond--the ligaments which hold the body together.

Peace is to rule our hearts--not the agitation and distress of the old man, but peace which is the work of faith and trust. Not stoic indifference, but the peace that comes from being immersed in the word of God: the word of Christ is to dwell in us in all wisdom: that is, not just a mass of pearls, but "in all wisdom," strung together in the beautiful system that represents the mind and will and love of God: revealed

in Christ, the eternal wisdom and Word of God. Knowledge requires both the facts of knowledge, the data, but it requires a string to string the facts on: a system, an arrangement.

This brings us to our text: Colossians 3:17

- I. Do all in the Name of the Lord Jesus. Name means, as He is revealed. Who He is. This does not mean that we simply affix his name to everything we do. How the church has been distressed by those in the past who misunderstood this passage. People do and pray as they please, and tack the name of Christ on it; a bogus misappropriation.

Christ has not given you a blank check here to do whatever you want to do. He has not given you his credit card to draw on the bank of heaven to fulfill your lusts and your desires. This passage means the opposite of that.

"My name's sake" means "As I truly am, and as I have been revealed" This is the string that we must string all our pearls: Jesus as He is revealed, as He really is. My name stands for my attributes: who I am. To act on behalf of Christ in this world.

Matt. 10:22: "Ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake." They carry His Name: as He is revealed.

Acts 9:15,16: "But the Lord said unto him Ananias re Saul, God thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: For I will show him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake."

Acts 10:42,43: Peter to Cornelius and his people: "And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the judge of quick and dead. To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins...."

I John 2:12: "I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake."

I John 3:23: "And this is his commandment, that we should believe on the name of His son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment." Believing on his Name, is believing the Gospel: the doctrine of Christ, not something that people make up about Him, but as He is revealed:

I John 5:9-12. This witness is the faith in the record God gave of His son.

- A. Believing in Him as He has been revealed: "As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name..." John 1:12.
 - B. The name is not a talisman that sanctifies our own will and way, but means that all we say or do as Christians must be in conformity with Christ as He is revealed. Do not contradict the Gospel by what you say or by what you do.
 1. The doctrine of Christ is the measure of doctrine: II John: if any come and bring not this doctrine, do not receive them into your house, or bid them God speed.
 2. The love of Christ is the measure of practice: "If a man provide not for his own, he has denied the faith and is worse than an infidel." The "faith" is the truth revealed in Christ
 3. Everything is to be measured by Jesus Christ: He is the way, the truth, and the life. The devil knows where the citadel of the Kingdom of God is, and His assault is always there, to draw men off from Christ.
- II. Do this with thankfulness. to God and the Father, by Christ. There is no other way to thank the Father except through Jesus Christ. He is the way, the truth, and the life. No one ever came to God except by Him.

- A. When the ark was returned to Jerusalem: I Chron. 16:34,35: "O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good; for his mercy endureth forever. And say ye, Save us, O God of our salvation, and gather us together, and deliver us from the heathen, that we may give thanks to thy holy name, and glory in thy praise." TO THY HOLY NAME--as you are revealed. Ps. 50: "Offer unto God thanksgiving, and pay thy vows unto the Most High."
 - B. Ps. 100:4: "Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting: and his truth endureth to all generations."
 - C. Jonah 2:7-9 "When my soul fainted within me I remembered the Lord: and my prayer came in unto thee, into thy holy temple. They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy. But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving: I will pay that I have vowed. Salvation is of the Lord."
 - D. A theme that runs through the New Testament:
 - Rom. 1:21: the idolaters were not thankful.
 - Col. 3:15: Thankful in one Body.
 - Eph. 5:4: Not foolish talking, filthiness; Jesting: "ape-like movement" clever in double-meanings and course talking. Mocking: childishness and destructive, making fun of people: Instead: Thankfulness.
 - 1 Thess. 2:13: Paul mostly thanked God for the saints. When you are not thankful to God, you will not be able to be thankful for people, and your lack of peace will be manifest to everyone.
 - James 1:9,10. Rich and poor both humbled. Rich not to be thankful that the poor have been exalted: Poor are not to be thankful that the rich are abased.
- III. Thankfulness is an absolute requirement for what follows in Colossians. A thankful heart is pre-requisite for getting along with people.
- A. Husbands and wives. Why divorce: people are not thankful, and complain about each other. Are you thankful for your spouse?
 - B. Labor/management: Are you thankful for those with whom you work; for those whom God has placed over you.
 - C. Parents/Children: Are you thankful for your parents; Are you thankful for your children?
 - D. Church: Are you thankful for those whom God has given you as Christian brothers and sisters.
 - Proverbs 17:24 "Wisdom is before him that hath understanding, but the eyes of a fool are in the ends of the earth." It is in front of your face. Be thankful and be faithful where God has put you. This goes back to the peace of God in verse. 15. The peace of God is to rule your hearts: it is to be the umpire of the game in your soul.

This is the curse of Humanism: When the unchanging, absolute and perfect will and rule of God is denied in the earth, then all we have is man and his will and rule. But man is not perfect and he knows that he is not perfect. Therefore, he cannot make up his mind. He cannot stick to his marriage; his church; his friends; his calling. His mind is agitated and he has no faith; he runs from one thing to another.

Conclusion:

Without Christ, you cannot be thankful, for your mind will be agitated by a thousand considerations. Without faith, you will be overwhelmed by a thousand agitations and desires. You will never be settled or secure. This insecurity and thanklessness requires that you attempt to control everything around you, to protect yourself, for you do not trust in God. There are a thousand fears on every side. The peace of God is far from you and it cannot rule your heart and mind.

When you see Christ as He is revealed: the eternal God, who was ordained from the foundation of the world to shed His blood to be the savior of His people; this is a rock to your soul. You are where you are today, exactly because of the will and purpose of God for you. He decided your lot in life and the conditions under which you will live it. Be thankful; look around you for what you should be doing; forget the ends of the

earth. Love you neighbor. Whatsoever your hand findeth to do, do it with your might: and let me tell you a secret: it will involve the people of God and the saints that you sit next to every Sunday. Serve them with joy and gladness; be thankful for all things; and with prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God. Bathe every situation and every relationship with thanksgiving and joy, and you will begin to transform your world, because you will have begun to transform yourself.

Your thankfulness will be a light to illuminate everything around you.

May God bless you.