

**Happy New
Year!**

Give Thanks

(Col 3:15-17 NIV) Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. 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. 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.

Five things we are commanded

- 1.) Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts
- 2.) Be thankful
- 3.) Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...
as you teach
as you admonish one another
as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs
with gratitude in your hearts to God.
- 4.) Whatever you do, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus,
- 5.) Whatever you do, give thanks to God the Father through him.

Point #1

Thankfulness is a command

And be thankful...

(Col 3:15 NIV) Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

What happens when we are not thankful?

(Rom 1:21 NIV) For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

With gratitude...

*(Col 3:16 NIV) 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*

What are you thankful for?

- ▶ life
- ▶ breath
- ▶ health
- ▶ clothing
- ▶ family
- ▶ friends
- ▶ Freedom
- ▶ salvation
- ▶ church

Psalm 136

- 1 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good. *His love endures forever.*
- 2 Give thanks to the God of gods. *His love endures forever.*
- 3 Give thanks to the Lord of lords: *His love endures forever.*
- 4 to him who alone does great wonders, *His love endures forever.*
- 5 who by his understanding made the heavens, *His love endures forever.*
- 6 who spread out the earth upon the waters, *His love endures forever.*
- 7 who made the great lights *His love endures forever.*
- 8 the sun to govern the day, *His love endures forever.*
- 9 the moon and stars to govern the night; *His love endures forever.*

Psalm 136

- 10 to him who struck down the firstborn of Egypt *His love endures forever.*
- 11 and brought Israel out from among them *His love endures forever.*
- 12 with a mighty hand and outstretched arm; *His love endures forever.*
- 13 to him who divided the Red Sea asunder *His love endures forever.*
- 14 and brought Israel through the midst of it, *His love endures forever.*
- 15 but swept Pharaoh and his army into the Red Sea; *His love endures forever.*

Psalm 136

- 16 to him who led his people through the desert, *His love endures forever.*
- 17 who struck down great kings, *His love endures forever.*
- 18 and killed mighty kings-- *His love endures forever.*
- 19 Sihon king of the Amorites *His love endures forever.*
- 20 and Og king of Bashan-- *His love endures forever.*
- 21 and gave their land as an inheritance, *His love endures forever.*
- 22 an inheritance to his servant Israel; *His love endures forever.*

Psalm 136

23 to the One who remembered us in our low estate *His love endures forever.*

24 and freed us from our enemies, *His love endures forever.*

25 and who gives food to every creature. *His love endures forever.*

26 Give thanks to the God of heaven. *His love endures forever.*

Point #2

Have an attitude of gratitude .

With gratitude...

*(Col 3:16 NIV) 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*

Thanking God...

- ▶ thank you God for life
- ▶ thank you God for breath
- ▶ thank you God for getting him up this morning
- ▶ thank you God for this fine day
- ▶ thank you God for the ability to come together with these men
- ▶ thank you God for the freedom we have in this country

Giving thanks precedes worship

(Psa 100:4 NIV) Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

Giving thanks for everything

*(Eph 5:19-20 NIV) Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father **for everything**, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Point #3

Give God something you can thank Him for.

Whatever you do...

*(Col 3:17 NIV) 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.*

"Those who do all things in Christ's name will never want matter of thanksgiving to God, even the Father."

Matthew Henry

Thanking God as part of prayer

- ▶ *(Phil 4:6 NIV) Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.*
- ▶ *(Col 4:2 NIV) Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.*
- ▶ *(1 Th 5:16-18 NIV) Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

In all circumstances... even arrest

(Acts 4:21-24 NIV) After further threats they let them go. They could not decide how to punish them, because all the people were praising God for what had happened. For the man who was miraculously healed was over forty years old. On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. "Sovereign Lord," they said, "you made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and everything in them.

And what happened?

(Acts 4:31 NIV) After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

In all circumstances... even arrest and prison

(Acts 12:4-5 NIV) After arresting him, he put him in prison, handing him over to be guarded by four squads of four soldiers each. Herod intended to bring him out for public trial after the Passover. So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him.

And what happened?

(Acts 12:7-8) Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. "Quick, get up!" he said, and the chains fell off Peter's wrists. Then the angel said to him, "Put on your clothes and sandals." And Peter did so. "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me," the angel told him.

In all circumstances... even arrest & beating & jail

(Acts 16:22-25 NIV) The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten. After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. Upon receiving such orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.

And what happened?

(Acts 16:26 NIV) Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody's chains came loose.

Conclusion

