

THE ROOT AND FRUIT OF THANKSGIVING

Colossians 3:15-17

Immediate context: the radical new life: dead, risen, hidden with Christ in God. Hope of Glory (3:1-4)
So put off the old life and put on the new (3:5-17)

3x: v15, 16, 17 THANKSGIVING

Look at its root and fruit in context:

I. ROOT

Charis: GRACE. Thanksgiving is at root the recognition of **grace**. I.e. I have gotten **better than I deserve**.

Conversely, ingratitude, complaining, grumbling is feeling that I deserve better than I am getting.

So why does Paul call for thanksgiving in v15, 16, 17?

A. v15: → I have the _____ of Christ because the Lord forgave me (v13)!
Cf. 1:13-14: forgiveness at a staggering price!
1:19-20: complete peace thru the cross!
A peace that nothing can take away whether I enjoy it or not.
I do *not* deserve this. So I give **THANKS**.

B. v16: → I have the _____ of Christ which is replacing my foolishness with wisdom.
Wisdom in my interactions with others
Wisdom to recognize God's supreme worth and praise Him.
I did nothing to deserve this wisdom. So I sing with a **GRATEFUL** heart

C. v17: → I have the _____ of the Lord Jesus that sanctifies every inch of my life
I say and do everything as a dead-alive person whose true life is hidden with Christ.
I do not deserve this, so everything I do is with a heart of **THANKS** to my Father

II. FRUIT

- A. v15: thanks → deeper peace
In my heart and in my relationships
Contrast bitter victim mindset → tension
- B. v16: grateful worship → lighter heart
In worship and conversation
Contrast critical spirit
- C. v17: thankful spirit in everything → seek to please **Him** as my focus. Very freeing and light hearted.
Contrast self-absorbed grasping

So this week:

1. Focus on _____ thanksgiving, not just circumstantial: **ROOT**
Think how you are getting better than you deserve in the peace, wisdom, and Name given to you
2. Apply that in your worship (engage your heart! Use a hymn), your conversations, and all you do.
Consciously give thanks and tell God how you recognize in specific ways that in Christ you have **SO** much better than you deserve!