



AND BE THANKFUL

PART I: THE PROVISION & DISCIPLINE OF BEING THANKFUL

The **provision** for being thankful is the blessing of God that is based on and flows from our salvation in Jesus Christ.

- (Colossians 3:15 ESV) And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. **And be thankful.**

THANKFUL ... CONSCIOUS OF BENEFIT RECEIVED

- A. The Bible teaches us that we are to always be thankful.
- (Ephesians 5:20 ESV) **Giving thanks always and for everything to God** the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- B. God never calls us to or commands us to do something that he does not make provision for.
- (Philippians 4:13 ESV) **I can do all things through him who strengthens me.**
 - (2 Peter 1:3 ESV) **His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness,** through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence.
- C. Our provision for thankfulness is based on and flows through our salvation in Jesus Christ.
- D. So to be thankful and continue being thankful we must draw on our God-given provision.
- E. The Apostle Paul thanked God because the Colossians were living in regard to the benefit received—the hope of heaven heard in the word of truth, the gospel.
- (Colossians 1:3–6 ESV) **We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you,** 4 since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, 5 because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. **Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel,** 6 which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth.

- F. The Apostle Paul thanked God because the Thessalonians were living in regard to the benefit received—the word of God.

- (1 Thessalonians 2:13 ESV) **And we also thank God constantly for this,** that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, **you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God,** which is at work in you believers.

TRANSITION: THOSE WHO HAVE RECEIVED THE BENEFIT OF SALVATION ARE BLESSED WITH EVERY SPIRITUAL BLESSING IN THE HEAVENLY PLACES.

- (Ephesians 1:3 ESV) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.**

BUT HOW DO WE LIVE IN THAT REALITY NOW?

2 The **discipline** of being thankful is consciously and consistently living in regard to the benefit/ blessing received—our salvation in Jesus Christ.

- A. We live with a consistent, conscious awareness of the blessing of our salvation when the peace of Christ rules in our hearts, 3:15.
- (Colossians 3:15 ESV) **And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,** to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.
- B. The peace of Christ rules in our hearts revealing the blessing of our salvation when we set our minds on our life with Christ in God, 3:1-4.
- (Colossians 3:1–4 ESV) If then you have been raised with Christ, **seek the things that are above, where Christ is,** seated at the right hand of God. 2 **Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.** 3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

- C. If we do not set our minds on our life in Christ, then we will lose our spiritual sight—our consistent, conscious awareness of the blessing of our salvation in Christ.
- (2 Peter 1:3–9 ESV) His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, 4 by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. 5 For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, 6 and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, 7 and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. 8 For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins.

TRANSITION: THE EARTHLY ASPECTS OF OUR LIVES WILL BLIND US TO OUR LIFE IN CHRIST WHICH IS WHY WE MUST PUT THOSE THINGS TO DEATH.

- D. The peace of Christ will not rule in our hearts if we are not intent on putting to death the earthly aspects of our lives, 3:5-8.
- (Colossians 3:5–8 ESV) Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6 On account of these the wrath of God is coming. 7 In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. 8 But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth.

3:5 “put to death” [νεκρώω - nekroō] – to stop utterly; to kill; to stop a state or activity with lethal determination; to subdue; to make dead, to put to death; to deprive of power, destroy the strength of.

- E. The truth of the spiritual blessings in Christ becomes real in practice as we purposely and deliberately replace our old patterns of living with our new way of living in Christ, 3:9-11.
- (Colossians 3:9–11 ESV) Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. 11 Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

3 The accomplishment of thankful living comes down to trust and obedience—live as God says to live, live as his chosen people.

- A. Put on everything we are in Christ, 3:12-13.
- (Colossians 3:12–13 ESV) Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.
- B. Above all put on love, 3:14-15.
- (Colossians 3:14–15 ESV) And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.
- C. Let the word of Christ dwell in us richly, 3:16.
- (Colossians 3:16 ESV) Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.
- D. Whatever we do always give thanks, 3:17.
- (Colossians 3:17 ESV) And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.