

Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart

A. It's Important That We Give Thanks to God.

1. The Apostle Paul encourages Christians to follow his example of thankfulness.
 - a. Col. 1:2, 3, 12; Col 2:7; Col 3:15, 17; Col 4:2 Paul mentions giving thanks seven times in his letter to the Colossians reiterating its importance.
 - b. Paul also mentions thankfulness at least 40 times throughout all the epistles.
 - c. Thankfulness in the Greek comes from "charizomai," derived from "charis" which means "grace." "Homologeō" means "to confess, acknowledge."
 - d. Thankfulness acknowledges appreciation of all God has done for us by His grace including continued gratitude for His provision, protection, blessings, and everything that comes in our redemption package.
 - e. God thinks that giving thanks is very important because some combination of the word is found over 100 times in over 100 verses in the entire Bible.
 - f. Shouldn't we prioritize gratitude to God more than before?

B. We Should Follow Paul's Encouragement to Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart.

1. Paul expressed his thanks to the Colossians.
 - a. Col 1:3-8 ³ We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, ⁴ since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints; ⁵ because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel, ⁶ which has come to you, as it has also in all the world, and is bringing forth fruit, as it is also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth; ⁷ as you also learned from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, ⁸ who also declared to us your love in the Spirit.
2. Paul prayed for the Colossians with thanksgiving as an example to us.
 - a. Col 1:9a ⁹ For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;
 - b. Col 1:10-14 ¹⁰ that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹ strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; ¹² giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³ He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

3. Paul encourages thankfulness with a grateful heart.
 - a. Col 3:15-17 ¹⁵ And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be 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 whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.
4. Paul's wise advice.
 - a. Col 4:2 Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving.
5. Paul commands us to give thanks.
 - a. 1 Thess 5:16-18 ¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
6. More reasons to give thanks to God with a grateful heart.
 - a. Ezra 3:11a And they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the Lord.
 - b. Ps 9:1 I will praise You, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works.
 - c. Ps 100:4-5 ⁴ Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. ⁵ For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting, And His truth endures to all generations.
 - d. Phil 4:6-7 ⁶ Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.