

# THANKFULNESS: WEAPON AND MEDICINE

Colossians 3.15-17

## A REFEREE FOR OUR HEARTS

Colossians 3.15-17

**Rule:** The word "rule" in Greek gives us a picture of something that referees, governs, or administrates a situation. Our lives are to be "refereed" and "governed" by the peace of God, rather than other emotions or desires.

**Grace is the root of the Gospel;**

**Peace is the fruit of the Gospel.**

-Tullian Tchividjian, Jesus+Nothing=Everything, pg. 142

## THANKFUL SACRIFICE: A WEAPON OF WAR

Psalm 50.14, 15

- Sacrifice is hard, because you give out of what you don't have.
  - When we give thanks, it's because we have received something we previously didn't have.
- Sacrifice is given because you recognize you don't deserve what you have.
  - When we give thanks, it's because we know we don't deserve the blessing we have received.
- Sacrifice acknowledges that the other person is in control.
  - When we give thanks, we recognize that we are at the mercy of the other person and their goodwill toward us.
- Sacrifice puts the spotlight on someone else, not ourselves.
  - Giving thanks points us to the giver of the gift, not the receiver of the gift.

**Thankfulness wars against, lust, greed, apathy, bitterness, laziness, lying, anger, selfishness, and every other idol in your heart. It throws water on the fires of all sinful desire.**

## THANKFUL REJOICING: MEDICINE FOR HEALING

1 Thessalonians 5.18 // Philippians 4.4-9

**If you can't do it with the joy that you should, do it as you can, because doing it as you can makes you able to do it better.**

-Richard Baxter, 1600's Puritan Pastor

**To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you.**

— C.S. Lewis

# NOTES:

### Other Suggested Resources:

A sermon from Pastor Tullian Tchividjian, click on Part 16  
[www.crpc.org/resources/sermons/series/colossians](http://www.crpc.org/resources/sermons/series/colossians)

A sermon from Pastor John Piper called "Proud People Don't Say 'Thanks'"  
<http://www.desiringgod.org/resource-library/sermons/proud-people-dont-say-thanks>

### **Daily Devotionals:**

**Monday:** Colossians 3.12-14 // Psalm 95.2  
**Tuesday:** Colossians 3.15-17 // Psalm 69.30, 107.22  
**Wednesday:** Psalm 50.7-15 // Jeremiah 30.19  
**Thursday:** 1 Thessalonians 5.18 // Revelation 3.15-22  
**Friday:** Philippians 4.4-9 // Revelation 7.12  
**Saturday:** Psalm 116.12-19 // Colossians 2.6, 7

# ANNOUNCEMENTS:

## GPS MEETING TOMORROW NIGHT, 7PM

Join us **Monday the 25<sup>th</sup> at 7PM** here at the church for our quarterly GPS (Gospel Positioning Strategy) Meeting. We'll have a time of worship, prayer, and look at where we are going as we align ourselves with the mission that God has called our church to. Childcare will be provided. **PLEASE RSVP with the ages of your children** if they will be joining you, by filling out the green **Connection Card** or email Audra at [audra@lifemission.tv](mailto:audra@lifemission.tv)

## ADVENT SERIES STARTS NEXT SUNDAY!

Next Sunday we will pause our study of Colossians and begin a 4 week series: **Advent: The Arrival of Hope**, in anticipation of celebrating the birth of Christ this Christmas season. This is a wonderful opportunity to **invite friends and family** to come hear about the hope we have in Christ!

## CHRISTMAS OUTREACHES

Please see the flyer included in your notes for a suggested list of Christmas outreach opportunities. **Fill out the sheet** and drop it in the offering or at the Connection Booth if you'd like to get involved. If you have any questions, please email **Matt Null at [mnull1@yahoo.com](mailto:mnull1@yahoo.com)**

## KIDS ON MISSION

Please log on to check out [www.lifemissionchurch.com](http://www.lifemissionchurch.com) and click "Kids" at the top to read more about the vision and plan we have for our kids, including Pastor Jobey's heart and his walk through of our curriculum.

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**Jesus + Nothing = Everything**  
**Reading Plan**

Chapter 9, pages 129-150

## SAVE.

Jesus was sent to save. We have been saved to be sent. We are sent into our community to share the Good News that Christ came to save us, and we hope to see many who find new life.

## EQUIP.

We want to equip those very people in the Word so that they can continue to grow as disciples of Christ. From our preschool to our adults, our passion is to see everyone equipped in the Gospel to live a life of freedom and joy.

## SEND.

Lastly, we then want to see those equipped people sent into their community and world. From schools and playgrounds, to families and work places, we want to see people who are spiritual leaders in their life, showing people the truth of Christ's Good News.

## CONTACT US:

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## COMMUNITY GROUP HOMEWORK

Read **Colossians 3.15-17**. What stuck out to you the most or was the most impactful from the message on Sunday or from these verses? \_\_\_\_\_

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In what situations is saying "thank you" to someone most difficult? \_\_\_\_\_

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In what situations is saying "thank You" to God most difficult? \_\_\_\_\_

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What makes it so hard to give thanks in those situations? \_\_\_\_\_

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Chances are, you answered something like "pride" or "wrong perspective" or "self-entitlement." Read **Revelation 3.15-22**. What was the charge that Jesus had against this church? \_\_\_\_\_

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This week, with Thanksgiving, we are often in the presence of people that have hurt us deeply. With this in mind, how would you explain giving thanks as a sacrifice? \_\_\_\_\_

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Read the **C.S. Lewis** quote in the sermon notes. How does this "Because" statement help push you in the right direction toward a biblical "Therefore" response, such as **Colossians 3.13** mentions? \_\_\_\_\_

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What particular sins or circumstances are dealing with right now that are difficult? \_\_\_\_\_

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With these, what temptations to sin, disbelieve, or not trust in God are you facing? \_\_\_\_\_

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Read **1 Thessalonians 5.18** and **Philippians 4.4-9**. How can you turn your heart toward giving thanks in this situation? And if you do so, how do you think that will help deal with your temptation and desire for sin? \_\_\_\_\_

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Read the Richard Baxter quote in the sermon notes. Baxter was a 1600's pastor who spent time in prison for preaching the Gospel. No doubt it was difficult to give God thanks in a situation like that, but like Paul, who wrote the above verses in **Philippians** while in prison, he was able to do so. Considering that quote, to simply "start where you can," why do you think it's important to start even if your heart isn't totally in it, and what do you think can come from it in time? \_\_\_\_\_

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