

SERMON SUMMARY

Date: November 11, 2007	11:00 am Worship Service
Preacher: Rev. Donald Lawrence	Reference: Colossians 3: 15-17
Topic: Grasping Our Lord's Desire... for Regularity in Thanksgiving	

It would seem that "Thankfulness" is meant to be the oil that feeds and lubricates the Christian's worship. Colossians 2:6&7 says... *"So, then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness."* (Colossians 3: 6-7). The tension between accommodation and relevance is a real one. The former heads toward compromise, whereas the latter aims at effectiveness. The challenge then is how to remain grounded while being in touch.



The matter of "Thanksgiving" is well able to keep a person grounded as it reminds us that our successes and blessings spring from the Gracious Father. In our focus passage, Colossians 3:15-17, thanksgiving is associated with our:

- ✦ encounter with love in Christ
- ✦ experiences of learning Christ
- ✦ efforts at living for Christ

In verse 15, we see that Thanksgiving is paired with Encouragement in Christ for Life. The verse seems to ask of us certain questions and also proceeds to provide the answers:

1. Q: What is to rule? A: Peace of Christ (15a)
2. Q: What is to be remembered? A: Partners in Christ (15b)
3. Q: What is required? A: Praise through Christ (15c)

This is a call to see that our assurance in Christ is not complete without Thanksgiving. This demands of us a Thankful Attitude for any Consolation in Christ. Our Thanksgiving must not lag behind our Strivings for Peace in Christ.

Thanksgiving is paired with Enlightenment through Christ for Life as seen in verse 16.

- ▲ (16a) Mandate: be filled with the Christian's guide
- ▲ (16b) Means: be filled with great expressions to God
- ▲ (16c) Manner: be filled with gratitude to God

This is a call to see that our advancement in Christ is not complete without Thanksgiving. We need to develop a Thankful Attitude for any Consciousness in Christ because our Thanksgiving must not lag behind our Strivings for Progress in Christ.

In verse 17, Thanksgiving is paired with Engagement with Christ for Life as seen in:

- ▲ Summary of their lives totally for God (17a)
- ▲ Signature of their lives touched by God (17b)
- ▲ Statement of their lives thankfulness to God (17c)

This is a call to see that our accord with Christ is not complete without Thanksgiving. This demands a Thankful Attitude for any Conformity to Christ. Our Thanksgiving must not lag behind our Strivings for a Purposeful Life in Christ.

Since "Thanksgiving" is foundational to living as a Christian, it should be part of our regular routine. Let us embrace the attitude which seeks to make our lives a thank offering to God.