

**So Many  
Reasons to  
be Thankful**

**In America, there are temporal things we can be thankful for.  
If you're in Christ, you should be thankful for much more!**

We live in a nation that has freedom of religion.

We experience the comfort of modern HVAC & plumbing.

We have ample access to food & clothing.

Our King gave His life so that sin & death could be defeated & so we could be rescued from Satan's kingdom into Jesus' kingdom.

We belong to the largest family – the eternal family of God.

We have easy access to God's word & can pray anywhere anytime.

The Holy Spirit gives us new life & is continually sanctifying us.

King Jesus' resurrection paved the way for our resurrection.

**Colossians 3:1-7 (CSB)** <sup>1</sup> So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. <sup>3</sup> For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

<sup>5</sup> Therefore, put to death what belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desire, and greed, which is idolatry. <sup>6</sup> Because of these, God's wrath is coming upon the disobedient, <sup>7</sup> and you once walked in these things when you were living in them.

*It is only by Jesus' resurrection that we can leave our dead life behind & be raised to new, everlasting life in Him. Just as death could not hold Christ, it will not hold us either.*

*When you choose to follow Christ & put your faith in Him, your sinful desires & aspirations are to be crucified with Christ as the Holy Spirit transforms you.*

Are you trying to hold on to sinful desires ***and*** to Jesus?

**Colossians 3:8-11 (NKJV)** <sup>8</sup> But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. <sup>9</sup> Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, <sup>10</sup> and have put on the new *man* who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, <sup>11</sup> where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave *nor* free, but Christ *is* all and in all.

*We are to be holy (set apart) as God is holy. An easy way for someone to identify that we're different, is if our speech is pure.*

*There are no social hierarchies in the body of Christ. We need to treat all impartially as our Heavenly Father does.*

*We are no longer in Adam, but in Christ, and the Holy Spirit is transforming us into the image of Jesus.*

Are you thankful that your Heavenly Father is perfectly impartial?

**Colossians 3:12-14 (NIV)** <sup>12</sup>Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. <sup>13</sup>Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. <sup>14</sup>And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

*As those who are "In Christ", we need to be "clothed" with the traits of our precious Lord.*

*Since God perfectly embodies love, we are called, first, to love God's family. Also, we must show love to the world that is in darkness.*

*Our forgiveness is contingent upon us forgiving others. Anger, bitterness, and unforgiveness are tools of the enemy, and you are not to let those take hold.*

Forgiving others is not based on whether they are worthy. Do you know that you can't fully put on love without first forgiving?

**Colossians 3:15-17 (LSB)** <sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body, and be thankful.

<sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with gratefulness in your hearts to God.

<sup>17</sup> 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.

*We have so many reasons to be thankful and our attitude should be recognized by those inside and outside of the faith*

*As followers of Christ, our actions, words, and thoughts are to give honor and glory to Jesus' name. Our attitude is gratitude*

*God's wisdom is found in His word, and music is a powerful tool to teach His word and edify the body of Christ with gratitude*

If your heart is full of thankfulness, do you know that helps eliminate ungodly emotions that wish to intrude?