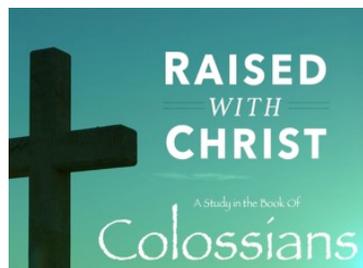


“Raised with Christ!”

Part 7: “Thankful Christ-centered living ...”

Colossians 3:5-17



Introduction: “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by PRAYER and supplication with THANKSGIVING let your request be made known to God” (Philippians 4:6).

A heart for God produces true thankfulness to Him, that only comes through the work of Christ in us!

“Raised with Christ” = “Christian MATURITY” = seeking after “Christ-like PERFECTION.”

Colossians 3:17: “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.”

I. The flesh cannot produce thanksgiving: Verses 5-11 ...

Colossians 3:5-11: “Put to DEATH therefore what is EARTHLY in you.”

The FLESH can do nothing to please GOD, let alone produce true thanksgiving.

These could be called sins of the HEAD because that’s where they begin.

Romans 1:18: “For the WRATH of God is revealed from heaven against all _____ and unrighteousness of men ...”

Titus 3:3-7: “For we ourselves WERE ONCE foolish ... BUT when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He SAVED us” (vss. 3-5).

The OLD NATURE never was concerned with giving thanks to God.

The old nature wanted NOTHING to do with Christ; the new self wants EVERYTHING to be like Christ!

II. Only the heart for God can produce thanksgiving: Verses 12-15 ...

The “thanks” of an unbeliever is a SELFISH thanks ... it is always focused on the GIFT and not the GIVER.

Colossians 3:12-15: “Put on then, as God’s CHOSEN ones, holy and beloved ... And let the peace of Christ rule in your HEART ... And be THANKFUL!”

Put ON, clothe yourself with the things that are CONTRARY to the list in verses 5-6.

Display the “fruit of the SPIRIT, because the SPIRIT of Christ is in you!”

FORGIVE and LOVE because that is what Christ has put IN you!

Your HEART is affected by your thoughts. The DESIRE to please God comes from the work of the Spirit within believers.

Psalm 51:10: “CREATE in me a clean heart, O God, and RENEW a right spirit within me.”

III. The key is Christ in us ... and us being in Christ! Verses 16-17 ...

The KEY to living a life of true thanksgiving to the Father is living your life IN CHRIST !!

Colossians 3:16: “Let the word of Christ DWELL in you richly.”

The only way to leave a LEGACY worthy of Christ is to live a life that reveals “Christ IN YOU, the hope of GLORY” (Colossians 1:27).

It is because of this thanksgiving to God for what Christ has done for us that we are moved to drop to our knees in WORSHIP.

There is nothing that you can give back to God, EXCEPT that which he has already given you: a HEART that seeks after Him.

Your life, lived in Christ, is SPIRITUAL WORSHIP back to the Father.

A heart for God produces true thankfulness to Him, that only comes through the work of Christ in us!