

Dear Lillian Methodist Church family,

In Colossians 3:15-17, Paul talks about "the peace of Christ," and says to "be thankful." He refers to "the word of Christ," and says to have "thankfulness in your heart." Finally, he says to do "everything in the name of the Lord Jesus," and "give thanks to God the Father."

I think we can see a pattern emerge here. Being thankful to God should be the natural state of the Christian. Thankfulness to God our Father is what sets us apart from the ungrateful and indifferent who care nothing for their Maker. Those who "thank their lucky stars," deny that God is the one who controls the universe and determines the outcomes of history. "He upholds the universe by the word of his power." (Heb 1:3)

The Christian's life of humble gratitude does not wait for favorable outcomes before expressing thanks. Paul says to "give thanks in all circumstances." (I Thess 5:18) When things happen that we don't understand, we can still give thanks that God's providence and provision are working things out for our good, because we love Him and are called according to His purpose. (Rom 8:28)

Thanksgiving is more than just a day or a season. Thanksgiving should be our daily way of life. Few things are more repugnant than an ungrateful child. How much more repulsive is the un-thankful creature, who although made in the image of their Creator, live their lives and "do not honor Him as God, or give thanks to Him." (Rom 1:21) Although they claim to be wise, they are really fools.

A humble heart is a thankful heart. We have much to be humble about, and even more to be thankful for.

See ya'll Sunday,
Perry Cunningham
Lay Leader