

Sermon: The Overflow of Thanksgiving
Series: Thanksgiving.

Scripture: Colossians 3:12-17
Date: November 24, 2024

OBSERVATION -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

INTERPRETATION -- Answer these questions together:

1. What does this passage teach us about God?

a) Read Romans 5:1. We have peace WITH God. How does knowing this truth allow us to experience the peace OF God in our hearts as opposed to the pressure of performing for God?

2. What does this passage teach us about us?

a) What hinders true thankfulness in your life? What's been stealing your peace lately? Expectations you've placed on God? Moral obligation? Comparing yourself to others? Other?

3. What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?

a) The peace of Christ (v.15) comes from knowing who we are in Christ. Look together at Col. 3:1-4; how is our new life in Christ described here? Turn these blessings into a list of things you can be grateful to God for.

b) Read verse 16 again. In what way does Paul make our thankfulness a group activity? Do you find it easier to be thankful when you are by yourself or when you are with other Christians? Explain your answer.

APPLICATION

a) Verse 17 tells us that we can do "whatever we do" with thankfulness to God. Marriage, parenting, friendship, ministry, career, sports, music, school – think about some of the different activities of your life. What is the difference between making these things and idol contrasted with making these things a gift from God that you are thankful for? How might your life be different if you were able to let things just be a gift and not an identity?

PRAYER

- Thank God for reconciling peace with him, and for anything else that he has blessed you with as a gift.
- Confess ways that you have let your peace be stolen by gifts that have become idols and identities.
- Thank Jesus for giving us inner peace and the gospel of grace that can both dwell inside us.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you to practice gratitude with the body of Christ through teaching, admonition, and singing.