

Intro

- ~ There's been many great trilogies: The Lord of the Rings, The original Star Wars & prequels, Indiana Jones
- ~ Great things come in threes – Triple Crown (Kentucky Derby, Preakness, Belmont Stakes), Triple crown in baseball (leader in HR, RBI's and Batting Average)
- ~ There's a great trilogy for our attitude in these verses – Joyfulness, Prayerfulness and Thankfulness to God
- ~ In these verses there is the idea that we do these things continually and without ceasing
- ~ Our attitude is to be continually influenced by these 3 godly virtues
- ~ The context of this chapter (it follows the rapture of the church in 1 Thess 4:13-18)
 - V1-11 = The Day of the Lord
 - V12-28 = Final instructions (Final instructions concerning the fact that the day of the Lord is imminent)
 - V12,13 = Final instructions concerning your leaders
 - V14,15 = Final instructions concerning church members
 - V16-18 = Final instructions concerning our attitude
 - V19 = Final instructions concerning the Holy Spirit
 - V20 = Final instructions concerning preaching
 - V21,22 = Final instructions concerning boundaries for your spiritual walk
 - V23 = Final instructions concerning sanctification until the Lord returns
 - V24 = Final instructions concerning the faithfulness of God
 - V25 = Final instructions concerning closing a letter to friends
- ~ It's in this context Paul addresses tools (Joyful, Prayerful and Thankful) to assist in our attitude
- ~ As we prepare for the Lord's return let live as children of the light and rejoice, pray and be thankful
- ~ We're all facing challenges that challenge our attitude
- ~ But once again God hasn't left us clueless he's given us answers in his word for our attitude

Text

1 thess 5 (Rejoicing, Praying and giving thanks) Also Col 4:2

V16 Joyful

- ~ Rejoice (chairo 5463) to be full of "cheer", that is, calmly happy or well off; impersonal especially as a salutation (on meeting or parting), be well: - farewell, be glad, God speed, greeting, hail, joy (-fully), rejoice.
- ~ Evermore (3842 pantote) every when, that is, at all times
- ~ Joy is a fruit of the spirit (Gal 5:22)
- ~ John Henry Jowett, a British preacher of an earlier generation, said this about gratitude: "Gratitude is a vaccine, an antitoxin, and an antiseptic." What did he mean? He meant that gratitude, like a vaccine, can prevent the invasion of being disgruntled

Uses of Chairo

- ~ Matt 2:10 the wise men rejoiced when they saw the star that led them to Christ
 - Rejoice when God leads us
- ~ Matt 5:11,12 rejoice when you are reviled and persecuted for Christ's sake
 - Rejoice when we're reviled and persecuted for Christ's sake
- ~ Lk 1:28 It's used by Gabriel in his greeting to Mary
 - Rejoice when we can meet and greet one another
- ~ Lk 10:20 rejoice not because you can do great works such as casting out demons but that your names are written in the heaven
 - Rejoice that our names are written in heaven
- ~ Lk 19:37 the multitudes rejoiced to see Christ at his Triumphal Entry for his mighty works
 - Rejoice for Christ's mighty works
- ~ Acts 5:41 After being arrested the disciples rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for Christ
 - Rejoice that we can suffer shame for Christ
- ~ Rom 12:12 rejoice in hope
 - Rejoice when

- ~ Rom 12:15 weep with those that weep and rejoice with those that rejoice
 - Rejoice when others rejoice
- ~ Phil 1:18 Paul rejoiced that Christ was preached even if of wrong motives
 - Rejoice when Christ is preached
- ~ Phil 3:1 Paul said rejoice in the Lord and again I say rejoice
 - Rejoice in the Lord (not in wrong, evil, revenge, injustice, sin)
- ~ Phil 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord and again I say rejoice
 - Rejoice always
- ~ 1 Pet 4:13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy
 - Rejoice when we're partakers of Christ's suffering
- ~ Joy is a part of the trilogy of thankfulness because "being full of cheer" contributes to thankfulness by being happy, cheerful and glad. This fights negativity, complaining, criticizing and discontentment
- ~ Rejoice and be cheerful when life is against us
- ~ Joy takes the burden out of service
- ~ The joy of the Lord is your strength (Neh. 8:10)
- ~ God loves a cheerful giver (2 Cor 9:7)
- ~ Heb 12:2 Looking unto Jesus who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despised the shame
- ~ Christian joy is not bound by circumstances or hindered by difficulties. In fact, joy in the New Testament is often coupled with sorrow or suffering
- ~ James 1:2 Count it all joy when you fall into diverse temptations
- ~ Joy doesn't mean the absence of trials but that we can have joy in the midst of trials

V17 Prayerful

- ~ Prayer is communion with the God
- ~ Prayer is the means of speaking to God, casting our burden on God, interceding for other people, and fellowshipping with the Lord
- ~ Instead of worry – Pray
- 1 Constant Prayer
 - ~ To "pray without ceasing" does not mean we must always be mumbling prayers. The word means "constantly recurring," not continuously occurring. We are to "keep the receiver off the hook" and be in touch with God so that our praying is part of a long conversation that is not broken
 - ~ Prayer is to be a continual attitude and mindset
 - ~ We know what the term OCD means – let's be OCD in regards to prayer – always in a mindset of prayer
 - ~ The neat thing about prayer is we can do it anywhere, in any position, in any circumstance, in any season of life
 - ~ Jesus said, "men ought always to pray." (Lk 18:1)
 - ~ The opposite of prayer is weakness. Weak (1573 ekkakeo) to be utterly spiritless, be wearied out, exhausted
 - ~ How often is my weakness tied to my lack of prayer
 - ~ Lk 18:1-5 Jesus gives a parable of the woman who troubled the city judge and he answered her prayer and gave her her request lest she wear him out with her continual asking. This lead into the comparison of prayer between the Pharisee and the publican
 - ~ Rom 12:12 Continuing instant in prayer
 - ~ Col 4:12 Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.
 - ~ Col 1:9 For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding
 - ~ Paul always prayed for people and thanked God for them
 - ~ Eph 6:18 Praying always in spiritual warfare
 - ~ Last week we spoke about criticizing and complaining – replace those two attitudes with prayer
 - ~ If we pray for someone before complaining or criticizing them we will have a better attitude toward them

2 Examples of Paul giving thanks and praying for people

- ~ Rom 1:8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world
- ~ 1 Cor 1:4 I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ
- ~ Eph 1:15,16 Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers
- ~ Phil 1:3,4 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,
- ~ Php 1:4 Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy
- Col 1:12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light
- ~ 1 Thess 1:2 We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers
- ~ 2 Thess 1:3 We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth
- Philemon 4 I thank my God, making mention of thee always in my prayers
- ~ 2 Tim 1:3 I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day

- ~ Paul was constantly giving thanks for the churches but it's interesting that when he comes to book of 1 Corinthians the carnal church he gives thanks to God on their behalf
- ~ Prayer includes requests, praise, and thanksgiving. This command also means that we should never quit praying.

Prayer in Colossians

- 1:3 – Giving thanks and always praying for people
- 1:9 – Paul doesn't cease to pray for the Colossians to be filled with the knowledge of God's will
- 4:2 – Continue instant in prayer
- 4:3 – Paul asks the Colossians to pray for Paul that he would have an open door to speak Christ (why he's in jail)
- 4:12 – Ephaphras labored fervently in prayer for the Colossians to stand perfect and complete in the will of God

V18 Thankful

- ~ In every situation (pas 3956) all, any, every, the whole: - all (manner of, means) always, daily, thoroughly, whatsoever, whole, whosoever
- ~ Give thanks (eucharesteo 5168) to be grateful, that is, (actually) to express gratitude (towards); specifically to say grace at a meal.
- ~ The importance of always giving thanks is seen in Paul telling the Thessalonians it's the will of God
- ~ Thankfulness prevents us from taking things for granted
- ~ Illustration of little boy who said other people are like his dog. They don't pray they just jump right in
- ~ Thankfulness keeps us from seeing things as terrible
- ~ Illustration of country preacher who walked 15 miles to service and thanked God things aren't always as bad

The things we give thanks for

- ~ Col 1:3 – Giving thanks for people (thanks for people)
- ~ Col 1:12 Giving thanks to God which made partakers of a heavenly inheritance (thanks for heavenly inheritance)
- ~ Col 2:7 - abound in thanksgiving (abound in thanksgiving)
- ~ Col 3:15 - be thankful that we're called in one body (thanks we're all one church family)
- ~ Col 3:17 - Giving thanks to God in all we do (thanks in all we do)
- ~ Col 4:2 – Continue in prayer, watch in the same with thanksgiving (with thanksgiving pray and be watchful)
- ~ Matt 26:27 Jesus gave thanks for communion/the Lord's Supper (thanks for communion)
- ~ Rom 7:25 Thanking God for our victory and no condemnation in Christ (thanks for victory in Christ)
- ~ 1 Thess 2:13 Thanking God when people receive the word of God not as word of men but as word of God
- ~ 2 Thess 1:3 Thanking God when people grow in the Lord and love each other (thank God when people grow)
- ~ Thanking God for people – Rom 1:8, Eph 1:16, col 1:3, 1 Thess 1:2 (Thanks for people)
- ~ Rev 11:17 Thanks to God is given in heaven

Negative examples of giving thanks

Rom 1:21 people become so reprobate they don't give thanks to God

Pseudo thankfulness where we in pride thank God we're not as bad as other people (Lk 18:11)

~ Things can always be worse than what they may seem or really are

~ Illustration of Matthew Henry being robbed

Conclusion

~ God's will is that we are to be joyful, prayerful, and thankful because we are his children.

~ It's God's will to be cheerful, prayerful and thankful

~ The answer for negativity, judging, temper, mad at people is cheerfulness, prayerfulness and thankfulness