

Intro

~ Eph 1:3 *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ*

~ When we think of the blessings of the Lord we may typically think of the Lord providing for our monetary needs like food, shelter, health, safety, a good car to drive, and a good job

~ But the spiritual blessing Paul refers to here in Ephesians 1 speak of blessings that are ours by virtue of being in Christ. There are 14 spiritual blessings listed. They are blessing that have to do with our position, forgiveness and redemption in Christ. There's 14 references to our being in Christ in Ephesians 1

~ These are great blessings for us to think about

~ When the hymn writer speaks of counting our blessings we're admonished to count them and name them

When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed,

When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,

Count your many blessings, name them one by one,

And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.

~ Some more spiritual blessings Paul speaks of are to the Colossians in 3:15-17. They're reasons to be thankful

~ Outline

1 Thankful for the Body (v15)

2 Thankful for the Word (v16)

3 Thankful for the Lord (v17)

4 Thankful in Whatever (v17)

Thankful in Blessings

Col 3:15 Thankful for the body

~ The overall context of Paul's admonitions here is to a church as a whole

~ However, we must not think that Paul wrote this only to individual Christians; for he directed it to the entire church body. "Let the Word of Christ dwell among you" is a possible translation. As it dwells richly in each member of the church, it will dwell richly in the church fellowship. BEC, Wiersbe

~ We must notice the importance of the connection between the peace of God and the church here

~ If the believers are at peace with God they'll be at peace in the church

~ When believers are out of fellowship with God they bring that to church and if the right conditions are present they'll create disharmony in the church.

~ Jonah was out of fellowship with God and it affected the whole crew on the ship he was on

~ We bring this peace to our church

~ Because we care about the body we make sure we're rightly related to god

~ We're thankful for the body because it's God's manifestation of himself on earth

~ Paul gives an interesting instruction to the Philippian church in Phil 1:27 (striving together for the gospel)

~ We're all called to be part of a new entity

~ In the body we have something the world can't offer

~ The church should be the safest, most spiritual, and secure place for believers

Col 3:16 Thankful for the word (the word is the source information for worship)

~ All that we know about God comes from the word

~ The word should dwell in us richly

~ The word dwell means "to feel at home."

~ When the word dwells in us richly it imparts wisdom

~ The word becomes the wisdom we use to teach and admonish one another

~ There's 3 "one anothers in this chapter v13 (forebear, forgive) and v16 (admonish)

~ Notice the "One Anothers" here. There's 31 different "One Anothers" in the NT

~ The word provides the means of admonishing one another (psalms, hymns, & spiritual songs)

~ Psalms were the songs taken from the Old Testament.

~ Hymns were songs of praise to God written by believers but not taken from the Psalms.

~ Spiritual Songs were expressions of Bible truth other than in psalms and hymns.

~ Thankful for the word

Col 3:17 Thankful in all we do / Thankful for the Lord

Thankful for the Lord

~ We give thanks to God

~ So many reasons to give thanks – making us, saving us, forgiving us, loving us, growing us

~ We give thanks because we know of our own we're nothing

~ Thankfulness with a grateful heart

~ So many Psalms are expressions of thanks to the Lord and are admonitions to all of creation to give thanks

Thankful in Behaviors

Thankful in all we say and do

~ The blessings influence our behaviors

~ Paul gets specific and says the whatsoever means your words and deeds

~ Whatever you say

- Our tongue become the vessel of praise
- James tells us the tongue is a little member. James uses the analogy of a ship being turned by a helm. Even so our tongue being so little can defile the whole body. The tongue can be used to bless or curse
- Prov 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue
- I was reading about the Rev Robert William Dale (1829-1895). He ministered at Carr's Lane Chapel. A Congregational church in Birmingham, England. He had a heart to win the lost. While effective he also struggled with bouts of depression. It would randomly come for weeks at a time. He told how one day in a bout of depression he was walking down the main street in Birmingham, England and an older lady saw him and thanked him. He asked her name but she said it doesn't matter. She said he had helped here hundreds of times and now he has made her home a happy one and then she walked off. He said when she walked off it's as if she took the cloud of darkness with her and the sun shone through.

~ Whatever you do

- If we do the things Paul has just discussed in this chapter alone we'll doing the right things
 - V1 seek things above
 - V2 set your affections above
 - V5 mortify your members
 - V8 put off
 - V9 lie not
 - V12 put on
 - V13 forbear and forgive
 - V14 put on charity
 - V15 let the peace of God rule your heart
 - V16 let the word dwell in you richly
 - There's two put off's (v8,9) and two put on's (10,12)
 - These are Paul's "whatever you do's"

Conclusion

~ Paul not only clarified the "whatever you do" being words and deeds but he adds a further qualification that heightens the standard

~ "Do it" in the name of the Lord Jesus

~ Does our words and deeds line up to the word

~ Can we tag the words, "in Jesus" to our words and actions?

~ Adam Clark - Let your words be right, and your actions upright.

~ Can I add, "in the name of Christ to what I say and do?" and not have the Lord look at me like "really?"

~ If I have the first three right I'm thankful for my spiritual family (the body), the word, for the Lord's work then I probably won't have a problem giving thanks in all I do

"The two basic attitudes of life that must characterize genuine, biblical spirituality are thankfulness at all times and in all circumstances and the maintenance of unity in the part of the body of Christ." *Ryrie, Balancing the Christian Life*