

## Thanksgiving to God

A great challenge for Christians is to be thankful to God. The Apostle Paul wrote, "And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And **be thankful**. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, **with thankfulness** in your hearts to God. 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 (Colossians 3:15-17, *English Standard Version*). Let's look at several points here.

First, Christians are to **be thankful for the relationships with other believers in the Church**. We all fall short in so many ways (Romans 3:23), and the more we are involved in the Church, we become more conscious of our own failings, and unfortunately, the failings of others. We are responsible for bearing with them, and encouraging them and ourselves to higher living. We do that by being thankful for our brothers and sisters, and for the blessings they bring into our mutual relationship with Christ. We are to be people grateful for the grace that saves us, for the blood that has redeemed us, and for the hope that fills us and the presence of Christ that is with us. We should be thankful to be part of the very best thing on this side of heaven.

Second, **we deepen our thankfulness** through several means: a.) *We meditate on the Word of Christ*—that is, the Bible, especially the New Testament—to know how we are to think and act Biblically in this dispensation. We allow it to dwell in our hearts. b.) *We are to apply that Word daily* and encourage one another with it. c.) *We are to sing* our thanksgiving regularly. It is hard to be gloomy when you are singing. Accompanying every Christian's Bible in our devotions ought to be a good hymnal.

Third, **everything we do is to be in thanksgiving**. That's an arresting thought—whatever we say or do is to be done for the name and sake of Jesus Christ. When we do our work around the house, it is for Christ. When we gather to worship, it's not for us, it is for the honor and glory of Jesus.

When we go into the world, it is with thankful hearts that Jesus has saved us from sin and for good works. When we raise our children, is for them to serve Christ. What is evident is the excellency of Jesus Christ in every matter.

Fourth, Thanksgiving is a **natural part of our life in Christ**. It needs to be cultivated. Thanksgiving is a daily part of our life, and not merely reserved for the fourth Thursday in November.

We should as often share our thankfulness as we do our prayer concerns. Are we as quick to share thanks as we are to share our problems?

**Craig Alan Myers – Executive Board Member**

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## **Weekly Prayer Points**

During the month of **November** we witness the change in the tapestry of God's creation as it changes from many shades of Green to eye catching colors of orange, yellow, purple, and red. As the month progresses the leaves fall from their holder to the earth. Days are shortened as the light of the sun fades earlier and earlier. The winds that blew cool across the face now blow with a chilling touch. With winter soon knocking at the door --- **November** is to be a month of **THANKSGIVING**. Your Prayer Committee asks that with **thanksgiving** daily count our blessings.

*“And whatever you do, in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, **giving thanks** to God the Father through Him” (Colossians 3:17)*

Lord it has been a busy day. Much has been done; much yet to be done. Thank You for the strength, courage, and order that you have brought into our day. A day too often filled with weakness, fear, and difficulty in deciding which way to go. I thank you for those divine appointments where the name of Jesus could be shared with family,

friends, and the stranger in the checkout line at the grocery store. Thank You for those moments of decision where the Holy Spirit gave the courage to stand for what is acceptable and right in Your sight.

Thank You Lord, for the contentment, peace, and joy in knowing that You are with us every moment of every day; in those early morning hours as the sun greets us and, takes its place in the heavens; to the fleeting moments of the sun disappearing behind the mountains. The light disappears; replaced by the moon and stars that shout "Great is the Lord!"

Heavenly Father, as our day has been filled with much doing, thank You for the truth of Your Word setting us free to soar like the eagle, for the song that puts the smile on our face, and the joy that fills our soul! It has been a busy day. Thank you Lord. Amen!

**Please pray for these congregations and pastors.**

- Red Creek Bethel Congregation in Davis, WV and Pastor John Moyers
- Rhama Congregation in Democratic Republic of Congo Africa and Pastor John Ngoy Kupendwa

**CBC Prayer Committee**