

Finding Hope in the Stewardship of Life

Hope, Thanksgiving, Stewardship, and the Sustaining Gospel

Romans 15:13 - *Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

Colossians 2:8 - *See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.*

Colossians 1:18-19 - *He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him.*

"God did not give us His gospel just so we could embrace it and be converted. Actually, He offers it to us every day as a gift that keeps on giving to us everything we need for life and godliness. The wise believer learns this truth early and becomes proficient in extracting available benefits from the gospel each day. We extract these benefits by being absorbed in the gospel, speaking it to ourselves when necessary, and by daring to reckon it true in all we do" (Milton Vincent, *The Gospel Primer*, p. 5).

3 ways your relationship with Christ is connected to thanksgiving:

I. Let the Peace of Christ Rule in Your Hearts and Be Thankful – v. 15

A. Because of what Jesus did to secure your peace, positionally

1. Peace – eirene – "includes both the concept of an agreement, pact, treaty, or bond and that of an attitude of rest or security" (MacArthur, *Colossians*, p. 158)

Romans 5:1 - *Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,*

Colossians 1:20 - *and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.*

2. Let peace "rule" – brabeuo – "used to describe the activity of an umpire in deciding the outcome of an athletic contest" (MacArthur, *Colossians*, p. 158).

3. This is one of the reasons we should be thankful

“Abide hard by the cross and search the mystery of his wounds” (Charles Haddon Spurgeon, Morning and Evening, January 4, Evening meditation).

“Paul simply refused to be pulled away from the gospel. The cross wasn’t merely one of Paul’s messages; it was the message. He taught other things as well, but whatever he taught was always derived from, and related to, the foundational reality that Jesus Christ died so that sinners would be reconciled to God” (C. J. Mahaney, *The Cross Centered Life*, p. 25).

B. Because of what Jesus continues to do to make peace possible in your relationships practically

Romans 6:17-18 - *But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.*

II. Let the Word of Christ Dwell in You Richly and be Thankful – v. 16

A. The goal

Colossians 1:28-29 - *We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ. For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.*

B. His Word can richly dwell in you because our Savior is alive

Galatians 2:20 - *I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.*

1 Corinthians 15:57-58 - *but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.*

2 Corinthians 9:11-15 - *you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God. For the ministry of this service is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing through many thanksgivings to God. Because of the proof given by this ministry, they will glorify God for your obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ and for the liberality of your contribution to them and to all, while they also, by prayer on your behalf, yearn for you because of the surpassing grace of God in you. Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!*

III. Let the Name of Christ be Glorified in You and Be Thankful – v. 17