

Thankfulness in Colossians (Wednesday Night)

Mary Mohler, Growing in Gratitude — spends the entire first chapter presenting the gospel.

1. Thankfulness for salvation, 1.12-14, 2.6-7

- 1.12 — thanks for being qualified, transferred and delivered, and redeemed.
 - Our thankfulness begins with being thankful to and for the one who brings our salvation...by God, thru Jesus.
 - Mary Mohler — thankful for the gift but not the giver is idolatry.
 - 1 Thessalonians 5.16-18,
 - *Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*
- 2.7 — thankful for the faith received, because you did not earn it or deserve it.
- combats immaturity (thankful for giver and gift), ineffectiveness (it's not about me), and being led astray as it keeps us humble and always looking to God (2.7 leads into 2.8).

2. Thankfulness in your heart (aka, affections), 3.15-16

- Written at the end of a section on how to walk in holiness
- 3.16 — thankfulness is an act of worship. An ungrateful heart is an idolatrous heart.
- Romans 1.27,
 - *For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.*
 - Futile — vain, foolish, corrupt
- combats sin, because I know God gives good things, and my heart loves the good things that he loves.

3. Thankfulness in your words and actions, 3.17

- Our words and actions are the outward expression of the inward condition of our hearts. So my gratitude for God that I show to God will show up in my expression of my gratitude for God that I show to others. Our words and actions show our gratitude.
- Ephesians 5.4,
 - *Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving.*

- How do we guard against cynicism, ridicule, disrespect, blaming, and bitterness?
 - We fill our mouths with thanksgiving.
- combats divisiveness, bitterness, hurt to and from others, and having a bad witness

4. Thankfulness in prayer, 4.2

- Be thankful in prayer because God hears, cares, and answers. So “be watchful” to see where he is at work, and give thanks when you see it.
- Philippians 4.6,
 - *do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.*
- Praying for other people, 1 Timothy 2.1,
 - *I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people*
- combats arrogance (thinking it is all in you), disbelief (you see proof of God), and griping to God. And it leads to right prayer.

5. Thankfulness for the salvation and growth of others, 1.3-5a

- Keeps us hopeful, because God is bigger than our problems and our sin.
- Romans 1.8,
 - *I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world.*
- Unites us with other believers.
- combats jealousy

Revelation 7.11-12,

And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”