

Gratitude



Colossians 2.6-7

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- Notice that Paul does not pray that the Colossians may begin to be thankful, but rather that the oceans of their gratitude may constantly overflow
- The idea is not that we just learn to count our blessings but that we overflow with appreciation for ultimate giver of those blessings
- Half full or half empty?

What Is Gratitude?

- The quality of being thankful; readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness
- Genesis 8.15-20
- By choosing to practice gratitude, we choose show what/who we are thankful for

Colossians

The background features a light blue gradient with a central illustration of two hands, one from the left and one from the right, holding a bright pink heart. White light rays radiate outwards from the heart, creating a glowing effect.

- We see a constant emphasis on gratitude throughout Colossians
 - Col 2.6-7
 - Col 3.15-17
- Gratitude is a choice
 - Christians can still show gratitude in negative situations

We Are New People



- Colossians 3.10
- If we are living a new life, that means we're not going to do the same things as the people in the world
- Choosing to think and act differently (Col. 3.12-14)
- "I think I'm a grateful person"
 - Paul tells us that there must be a difference

Testing Your Gratitude



- List your top 10 things you are grateful for
- Is your list earth focused or Christ focused?
- Matthew 6.9-15
- How often do we thank God? (Philippians 1.3-4)
- Are you thankful for the gift or for the giver who is behind it? (James 1.17)

Missing The Mark

A pink heart is held gently by two hands, one on the left and one on the right. The background is a light blue color with white rays emanating from behind the heart, creating a glowing effect.

- Often times we focus our gratitude on the comfortable things in life (home, car job)
- The issue is time and chance can impact all of those things
- Our gratitude needs to be tied to something deeper
- If I am thankful today for my 10 worldly things, what do we do when those things are gone?

Deeper Gratitude

A pink heart is held gently by two hands, one on the left and one on the right. The background is a light blue color with white rays emanating from behind the heart, creating a glowing effect.

- 1 Timothy 4.4-5
- James 1.17
- The idea is that the way a Christian expresses their gratitude is an ongoing conversation with God that never ends
- This includes time in scripture and prayer
- You cant show gratitude to someone you ignore

What Are You Grateful For?

- It is one thing to tell God how thankful you are, it's another thing to show God how thankful you are
- Are we so focused on the worldly that we often don't see the heavenly?
- So.. What are you thankful for?
- I am thankful for this congregation