

# The Bulwark

NOVEMBER 30, 2025

## A THANKSGIVING CHALLENGE

For years it has been our good pleasure to host any and all who would accept the invitation to share Thanksgiving with us in our home. Yes, it does take considerable time and energy, but it always seems more than worth it. Especially when people feel comfortable enough to “drop-in” knowing there will always be a place for them. We are ever so thankful that people find in us a level of comfort that affords such acceptance. Truly we have been blessed.



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

It is easy to complain about one thing or another. Escalating prices, elected officials, on and on; where does one stop? In the 111 psalm, the psalmist looks at seemingly every facet of life and celebrates all with an attitude of utter thanksgiving.

*spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” Note the emphasis of an attitude of gratitude; “in your hearts”.*

Now look slightly to your left and up, see the verse Colossians 3:17? Bear in mind that Paul wrote those words while under house arrest in Rome. It would clearly behoove each one of us to take the time to reflect and come to be truly aware of just how blessed we are. *“Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)*

Recently thoughts came to mind from a previous thanksgiving gathering at our house. When I watched as some played an impromptu game of “thanks”. The challenge set before the handful of men who shared a history of hard living, was to name something for which they were thankful in three seconds or less and they couldn’t repeat what had already been said. Trying to be as inconspicuous as possible while watching from a short distance away, I could hear the rapid-fire responses. A tear formed in the corner of one of my eyes. Suffice to say these men were truly grateful on many different fronts. One thing was universal, that being each man had chosen to embrace an attitude of gratitude.

In Colossians 3:15 Paul reminds the brethren in Colossae that there exists a preciousness in the new relationship we have in Christ and with one another. Notice carefully how that verse is crafted. *“And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.”* Because you are joined with others in the body of Christ, be thankful. Be thankful that you matter and belong. Isn’t that something that most long for?

Now look at Colossians 3:16, because of what is brought out in the previous verses Paul then points out, *“Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and*

Are you willing to accept the challenge? (wbe)

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