

**CHRIST'S NAME**  
**AND THANKSGIVING**  
**Colossians 3:17**

**Living with thanksgiving should turn our focus away from food and football  
and toward the Lord Jesus and God the Father.**

**I. JESUS-FOCUSED LIVING**

**A. OUR PUBLIC LIFE**

1. Words: The things we talk about ... our conversations
2. Deeds: The things we do ... our conduct
3. Impact: Whatever you do
4. Instruction: A simple prescription

**B. OUR PARTICULAR GOAL**

- Do all in the name of the Lord Jesus
- 1. Doing all as Jesus' associates - Acts 19:4-5
- 2. Doing all as Jesus' agents - Acts 3:6
- 3. Doing all as Jesus' ambassadors - II Cor. 5:20-21
- 4. Doing all under Jesus' authority - Acts 16:16-18
- 5. Doing all with a Jesus ambition - Col. 3:23-24
- 6. Doing all remembering Jesus' attachment
  - a. Be aware - Acts 11:26
  - b. Be careful - II Thess. 3:6
  - c. Ask questions - Can I do this as Christ's representative?
  - d. Avoid sin - II Tim. 2:19b

**II. GOD-FOCUSED THANKSGIVING**

**A. GIVING THANKS TO GOD THE FATHER**

1. Giving thanks continually
  - See Ephesians 5:20
2. Giving thanks happily
  - Because doing all in Jesus' name is exciting and not a drudgery
3. Giving thanks knowingly
  - Because all that we say and do are only because of His blessings
4. Giving thanks respectfully
  - Because "thank you" is always appropriate and appreciated

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**B. GIVING THANKS THROUGH HIM TO GOD**

1. Because the Son of God saved us - See Hebrews 13:12-15
2. Because the Son of God mediates for us - I Tim. 2:5
3. Because the Son of God enjoys passing on good words to His Father
4. Because the Son of God loves to hear His Father thanked

**CONCLUSION:**

**This Thanksgiving lets focus on representing Jesus well  
and respecting the Father correctly**