

PEACE AND THANKSGIVING

Colossians 3:15

When Christ's peace rules, His people give thanks.

I. PEACE

A. THE COMMAND

1. The Subject: Christ's peace
 - The peace sourced in and supplied by Him
2. The Object: Let it rule
 - a. Let it have superiority > Sitting on the throne
 - b. Let it have authority > Acting as the umpire over all of our thoughts and deeds

B. THE APPLICATION

1. Personally: In our hearts
 - a. Our comprehension: We can have peace in knowing ...
 - 1) Our sin is forgiven - Col. 1:19-23 and see Rom. 5:1
 - 2) Our future is fabulous - Col. 3:2-3 and 1:5
 - 3) Our prayers are welcomed - Phil 4:6-7
 - 4) We have Christ's promise of peace - John 14:27 and 16:33
 - 5) God is there - II Tim. 4:16-18
 - b. The contrast: Note the despair of the disciples in Luke 8:22-25
2. Corporately: In our church
 - a. Our calling: We are called to this peace - See Romans 14:19 and I Corinthians 14:33
 - b. Our condition: Those personally resting in Christ will not be restless or raucous in the church
 - 1) The expectation: Saints with the peace of Christ should be at peace with the people of God
 - Note Ephesians 4:1-3
 - 2) The prohibition
 - Not divisive > I Cor. 1:11-12
 - Not distracted ... > Col. 2:8, 16-23
 - c. Our caution: Seeking personal interests will war against this peace

Over please >

II. THANKGIVING

A. REQUIRED

1. The Command: A present middle imperative
 - You must be thankful from within yourselves
2. The Condition
 - a. After reflection upon this great peace given to us, we should give thanks
 - b. God's favor should always be met with thanksgiving
 - Exp: The thankful leper in Luke 17:15-16
3. A Caution
 - You can't fulfill this command if you are constantly complaining or being critical

B. GIVEN

1. Personally
 - a. Because we're maturing - Col. 2:6-7
 - b. Because God protects us - See Acts 27:35
 - c. Because God desires this - I Thess. 5:18
2. Corporately
 - a. Because Christ is changing us - Col. 3:12-14
 - b. Because Christ is teaching us - Col. 3:18-22

CONCLUSION:

Will you let God's peace control you?

Will you choose to be grateful?

Thank God we can live a peaceful life!