

Cecil and Lisa Paxton Ministries

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AND LET THE
PEACE OF
GOD RULE IN
YOUR HEARTS,
TO WHICH
ALSO YOU
WERE CALLED
IN ONE BODY:
AND BE
THANKFUL
COLOSSIANS 3:15 NKJV

2 Timothy 3:1-5 (NKJV)

¹ But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: ² For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³ unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴ traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

In the last days, as 2 Timothy says, people will be lovers of themselves. Selfishness, which is of the flesh, is at the root of the issue coming out of the heart of an unthankful person. There are some people you do not want to become like by taking on their ways.

Romans 1:20-22 explains the reason for the condition of the hearts of unthankful people.

Romans 1:20-22 (NKJV)

²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, ²¹ because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Professing to be wise, they became fools.

Not being thankful toward God had a direct result on their thoughts, being foolish, morally wicked, and idolatrous, which blinded their darkened hearts. They could only see from their own perspective, not God's perspective. They reasoned their ways to be wise,

Dear Partners and Friends,

Thankfulness

We teach our children when they are very young to express gratitude to someone who gives them a gift, as we do not want them to grow up with selfish attitudes. We want them to understand that it is proper to express gratitude so that as they grow, they will express thankfulness not because they have to but because it is a genuine expression out of their hearts.

One of the traits of people in the last days is being unthankful.

not even realizing their foolishness. The truth is, they knew of God but never came to truly know Him.

A genuine expression of thankfulness to God reveals that we truly know Him. We know His great love for us that He has shown us through Jesus Christ. We know His true character and how good He is, as our hearts are not blinded through darkness but can clearly see the goodness of the Lord.

Psalm 100:4 says that we are to *“enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name”* (NKJV).

Our worship should come out of hearts of gratitude, full of thankfulness. As Christians, expressing gratitude toward God from our hearts reveals that we fully understand God’s love toward us. Every time we think of Jesus, it is natural for our hearts to express gratitude.

Colossians 3:12-17 (NKJV)

12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. 14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. 15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body: and be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. 17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

As new creations in Christ, our new character should determine the way we relate to people. Light is always revealing as it dispels darkness, bringing visibility.

Jesus said in Matthew 5:14 that we are the light of the world, like a city set on a hill that cannot be hidden. Verse 16 tells us that we are to let our light shine before others.



Building Upgrades UPDATE

We are grateful to the Lord and to you, our partners and friends, for your support in all these projects that will keep our office building looking and staying beautiful for years to come.

All this work began in the spring and is now either finished or nearing completion: painting the exterior of the building, recoating the surface of the parking lot, replacing a deck (which is a roof over our storage area attached to the building), replacing windows from the 1980s, and the immediate, unplanned need for a new furnace and air conditioner to replace ones that were thirty-three years old.

I believe you have sowed bountifully, as it says in 2 Corinthians 9:6, and in the name of Jesus, we bless the seeds you have sown, that you will reap bountifully as each of you gave as you purposed in your hearts as cheerful givers.

I believe God is making all grace abound toward you, always having all sufficiency in all things, that you may have an abundance for every good work (2 Cor. 9:8). He is multiplying the seed you have sown and increasing the fruits of your righteousness (2 Cor. 9:10).

I believe you will be blessed in every way, even as you are generous.

Putting on the new man reveals the true nature of God to people. Tender mercy, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering, and bearing one another with forgiveness comes out of God's love revealed to us. We are to let the peace of God rule in our hearts with thankfulness as a way of life in Christ.

A Day of Thanksgiving



In 1863, Sarah J. Hale encouraged President Abraham Lincoln to establish a national day of thanksgiving, and he fulfilled her request later that year, at the height of the Civil War. In a proclamation, he entreated all Americans to commend to God's tender care those who had become widows, orphans, mourners, or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife and for God to heal the wounds of the nation.

Last Paragraph of the Transcript of President Abraham Lincoln's Thanksgiving Proclamation, October 3, 1863:

I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to

His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility and Union.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, this Third day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States the Eighty-eighth.

By the President: Abraham Lincoln

William H. Seward
Secretary of State

How blessed we are that President Lincoln established our national day of Thanksgiving.

Have a Blessed and Happy Thanksgiving!

Cecil + Lisa

Reference: <http://www.abrahamlincolnonline.org/lincoln/speeches/thanks.htm>

NEW DVD OUT IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS

INSPIRING YOUR FAITH is a DVD containing fifteen short, uplifting messages taken from the Cecil and Lisa Paxton Ministries YouTube channel. In each video, Cecil shares a testimony and truth from the Word of God. These can be used for home-group discussions, short devotionals on busy days, or a good word whenever you need it.

Teachings include: *Police Dog Healed, A Vision of Jesus, The Power of Love, Healed of Autism*, and many more!

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