

IN EVERYTHING

THE LESSON: COLOSSIANS 3

God is so good to us. We know that our sin makes us undeserving, therefore we are grateful for each good gift that God sends. We know he is good when we consider the “common” gifts that he has given to us in the natural world. We know it when we consider the sacrifice of Christ on our behalf. We know it when we consider the blessings he has poured out on the Church, and the glorious future that he has prepared for us. For these reasons and many more, no matter what kind of day we are having, we can say, “God is so good”.

The Apostle Paul wrote several of his letters, including the ones to the Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians, while he was imprisoned in Rome. Did you catch that? He was writing from prison! In spite of his circumstances, these letters are filled with calls to rejoice and give thanks. In the letter to the Philippians, he wrote, “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice” (4:4). In the letter to the Ephesian church, he instructed his readers to give thanks “always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” (5:20). And to the Colossians he said, “whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him” (3:17).

AT-HOME CHALLENGE

Each morning and evening, follow your own rule of prayer.

(IF YOU DON'T HAVE ONE, TRY SAYING THE MORNING AND EVENING PRAYERS FROM THE “FORMS OF PRAYER TO BE USED IN FAMILIES”, WHICH BEGINS ON PAGE 728 OF THE BCP. IF YOU DON'T HAVE A COPY, YOU CAN LOOK IT UP HERE: [HTTP://PRAYERBOOK.CA/RESOURCES/BCPONLINE/FAMILY-PRAYER.](http://prayerbook.ca/resources/bcponline/family-prayer))

Spend some time each day this week, perhaps more than once a day, playing with the words of Psalm 138: 1: “I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart”. Name some of the things that you are specifically thankful for. Close your time of prayer with:

O Lord, we pray thee, sow the seed of thy word in our hearts, and send down upon us the showers of thy grace, that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit, and at the great day of harvest may be gathered by the holy angels into the heavenly garner; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (FROM HARVEST THANKSGIVING, BCP PAGE 618)

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COLOSSIANS 3: **WHATEVER YOU DO**

¹If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

⁵Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶On account of these the wrath of God is coming. ⁷In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. ⁸But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. ⁹Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices ¹⁰and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. ¹¹Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

¹²Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.