

# Sermon Notes

## *A Christian Response - Col 3:17*

### November 1, 2020

#### I. Introduction

- a. anyone remember Cubs World Series... exactly 4 years tomorrow... lots of people very happy... lots of people very sad... life is like that... election in two days... some will be happy, some sad... what is proper biblical response...  
Jer 29:7... “**seek peace of the city where I sent you... pray to the Lord for it...**”  
1Tim 2:1-2... “**pray, intercede, give thanks... for kings and all in authority...**”
- b. regardless of who gets elected... we should pray for, honor, be subject to the authorities... as long as they don't ask us to disobey God or His Word...  
Acts 5:29... “**we must obey God rather than any human authority...**”  
1Thess 2:4... “**we speak, not to please people, but rather God...**”  
  
**Rebellion to tyrants is obedience to God. Benjamin Franklin**
- c. pray daily for them to seek godly wisdom as they lead... pray...  
Psa 2... “**be wise... receive instruction... serve God with awe... honor His Son, rejoice...**”  
Prov 11:14... “**without guidance, people fall... victory in many advisers...**”  
Jam 3:17... “**wisdom from above... pure, gentle, compliant, full of mercy...**”

**I ask that our people devote themselves in a continuance of prayer as we rise to each new day and again when our day is spent. Franklin Roosevelt**

#### II. Christian Response

- a. what if my candidate doesn't get elected... who will take care of me... not government's job to take care of you... it's God's and He's good at it...  
Psa 37... “**trust in the Lord and do good... then you'll live safely and prosper... the Lord supports the righteous... their inheritance will last forever... not be disgraced in hard times... even in famine they will have more than enough...**”  
1Tim 5... “**doesn't provide for family... denied faith... worse than unbeliever...**”
- b. in life... we only have two possible responses... give thanks or not... choice makes huge difference... **not giving thanks** results in a dark and confused mind... become utter fool... leads to wickedness... exchange truth for lie...  
Rom 1:18-32... “**without excuse... they knew God, but wouldn't give Him thanks... as a result... minds became dark and confused... became utter fools... led to a life full of every kind of wickedness, sin, greed, envy, etc...**”
- c. contrast that with **giving thanks**...  
Eph 5:15-21... “**be careful how you live... not as fools, but wise... don't act thoughtlessly... but understand what the Lord wants you to do... be filled with HS... singing to the Lord... giving thanks always for everything...**”

**When we praise God for mercies, we usually prolong them. When we praise God for miseries, we usually end them. Praise is the honey extracted from every bloom of grace. We ought not leap in prayer and limp in praise. Charles Spurgeon**

- d. advice goes beyond election... in life, you need to know what to do when you don't know what to do... if not, then we can get a little crazy...  
Rom 1... “**not give thanks... as a result... dark, confused, fool, wickedness...**”  
Eph 5... “**give thanks in everything... understand what God wants you to do...**”
  - e. Eph 5 is famous for its marital advice... right after Paul tells us to give thanks in everything... offers this to husbands and wives...  
Eph 5:22-33... “**wives, submit to husbands... husbands, love wives... to sum up, each man must love his wife as himself... wife must respect her husband...**”
  - f. how do I do that... if I love my wife as myself... she'd have a lot more guns than she has now... Paul doesn't give specifics... so how do I know what to do... flowers, clothing, chocolate, jewelry, ammo... I'm confused...  
Eph 5:20-17... “**giving thanks always... singing to the Lord... speaking in psalms, hymns... filled with HS... understand what the Lord wants you to do...**”
  - g. giving thanks is the best **Christian response** in every situation we face... good or bad... helps us know what to do when we don't know what to do...  
Psa 107... “**give thanks... for He is good... satisfies thirsty, fills hungry...**”  
1Cor 1:4-5... “**always thank God for grace... be enriched in all knowledge...**”  
Phil 4:4-9... “**don't worry, pray with thanks... peace guards heart and mind...**”  
Col 3:17... “**whatever you do... in word or deed... give thanks thru Jesus...**”
  - h. no one knows where America is headed in next 4 years... think they do, but they don't... that's why its so important we pray for leaders... pray they will acknowledge God and give Him thanks... so they will know what to do...
  - i. *things are so bad, I just can't give thanks to God...* yes, you can... no matter what the situation... we must understand **giving thanks** is a choice...  
Deut 30:19... “**given choice... life and death, blessing and curse... choose life...**”  
Josh 24:15... “**choose for yourselves... who will you worship... as for me...**”  
Prov 18:21... “**words kill, words give life... poison or fruit... you choose...**”  
John 14:1... “**don't let (choice) your heart be troubled... believe in God...**”  
Jam 1:2-5... “**when trouble comes... let it be (choice) an opportunity for joy...**”
  - j. when trouble comes... worst thing you can feel is *stuck*... you are not stuck... devil wants you to feel like you'll never, ever get out of this... can't possibly praise and thank God now... why, because he knows thanks is your way out...  
Acts 16:22-26... “**naked, beaten, whipped, in stocks... praying, singing...**”  
2Cor 4:8-18... “**pressed, perplexed, persecuted, struck down... cause thanks...**”  
2Cor 11... “**boast about... jail, whipped, stoned, shipwreck, danger, hunger...**”
- Satan so hates the genuine praise of Christ that his fiery darts of discouragement are not effective when we respond in praise. Bill Thrasher**
- k. if things are really, really bad and you don't know what to do... that's exactly when you need to know what to do... and that's what **giving thanks** does...  
Rom 1... “**wouldn't give God thanks... as a result, became confused, foolish...**”  
Eph 5... “**giving thanks always... understand what God wants you to do...**”
  - l. victory comes thru faith... faith overflows in thanksgiving... as you choose to give thanks in all situations... experience more victories... pray...  
Col 2:7... “**established in faith... abounding in it... with thanksgiving...**”  
1John 5:4-5... “**this is the victory that has conquered the world... our faith...**”

## Thanksgiving Can Raise the Dead

John 11:41-42... *I thank You that You have heard Me...*

After Jesus said these words... He cried with a loud voice... *Lazarus, come forth!* And the man who had been dead for four days came out of his tomb!! **John 11:39-44.**

This is one of the greatest miracles that Jesus performed. Lazarus had been dead for four days when Jesus raised him to life. Wouldn't you agree that death is indeed an extreme problem? Having no money in the bank... being sick and losing your job... bad as they are... are not as bad as being dead.

What I want you to see is this... if Jesus, in the midst of the most extreme of problems... shows us that the **solution** is still *Father, I thank you...* then how much more should we thank God in the midst of the less serious problems we face. If thanksgiving can raise the dead... then let us **give thanks** in spite of the negative circumstances we see... and we will find victory.

Unfortunately... we tend to do the opposite... we murmur and complain. But, murmuring and complaining only **MAGNIFY** the problem. Thanksgiving, on the other hand, is the language of faith which pleases God. I am not saying we give thanks for the problems we have. No, we **thank God that He is our answer** to the problems that we have... and that He has already given every blessing to us freely. **Eph 1:3.**

*But, pastor, what I have is so little.* Then, thank God for the little you have, and it will multiply. Jesus thanked His Father for five loaves and two small fish... a little boy's lunch... and they were multiplied to feed more than 5000 people with 12 baskets full of leftovers!! **John 6:8-13.**

Notice that when the Holy Spirit talked about this event again later... He specifically mentioned Jesus giving thanks... *the place where they ate bread after the Lord had given thanks.* **John 6:23.** The Holy Spirit seemed to be more pleased with the act of giving thanks than the miracle of multiplication or the 12 baskets full of leftovers.

The more you thank God... the more you please Him. What little you have will multiply... whatever is dead will be raised to life.

**Pastor Joseph Prince**

## Sermon Study

A Christian Response - Col 3:17 - November 1, 2020

1. Regardless of who gets elected... what is the **proper response** for a Christian? Read **Jer 29:7... 1Tim 2:1-2... Psa 2:10-11... Prov 11:14... Jam 3:17.** Will you **commit to pray** for our leaders?
2. Does that mean we always **agree and obey**? Read **Acts 5:29** and **1Thess 2:4.** What might that look like?
3. What happens if **your candidate** doesn't get elected? What do you do then? Read **Rom 1:18-32** and **Eph 5:15-21.** Will it be **hard** to give thanks if your candidate doesn't win? Why or why not?
4. What is our **best response** to bad situations? Read **Psa 107... 1Cor 1:4-5... Phil 4:4-9... Col 3:17.** Is that **normal** for you?
5. Giving thanks is a choice. Explain. Read **Deut 30:19... Josh 24:15... Prov 18:21... John 14:1... Jam 1:2-5.** Is giving thanks **easy** or **hard** for you? Why do you think it's that way?
6. Read **Acts 16:22-26... 2Cor 4:8-18... 2Cor 11:16-30.** What happened when they **responded with thanks**? Do you think that would be true for you too? Why or why not?
7. What **gives us victory** in this world? Read **1John 5:4-5.** What could make your **faith overflow** so you can see more victories? Read **Col 2:7.** How will you **respond** to difficulty this week?