

From the Pastor

Colossians 3:15-17

“And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let 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. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

We are now fully into the “Holiday Season, which brings with it a sense of excitement, celebration, love of family and God, and yes, even stress and despair. While many of us thrill at the idea of putting up Halloween, Fall, Thanksgiving and Christmas decorations, many others feel only anxiety. And those of us who DO actually love all of the preparations, we still may put a lot of pressure on ourselves to get it all done; and to do it all perfectly. And while many of us look forward to spending quality time with families, others are missing loved ones who have passed away, and others are not-so-thrilled to have to be around certain family members. After all, we don’t get to pick our family, do we?

And still, the scriptures encourage us to dwell in a spirit of thanksgiving in all things. But nowhere in our bible do we see instructions on decorating; nowhere do we see rules for a happy holiday season; and nowhere does it say that we are to overwhelm ourselves with the high expectations WE set for how the holidays are supposed to go. All they say is to “let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts... And be thankful.” You see, if we let it, the peace of Christ can overtake us and help us through even the most difficult times; and it can also help us to enjoy the good times even more. If you are missing a loved one this season, remember that they are at peace with God, patiently waiting to be reunited with you. And in the meantime, Christ is with you now, bringing joy, love and peace to you, here in this life.

I encourage us all to “let the word of Christ dwell” within us this season and not get bogged down in the worldly demands of the holidays. Remember that everything you have, from each bite of food, to each loved one (past and present), to the roof over your heads comes from God and we are to be so thankful for it all. God is very good to us and remembering that is truly what the holidays are all about. So each time you feel yourself getting stressed out over all the things on your “to do” list, remember this scripture and be joyful always: “Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

Amen!