

## Peace Through Thanksgiving

### I. Introduction:

A. Jesus was sending His disciples into the world to preach and suffer for His cause (**John 15:18-21**).

1. He instructed them to understand that in the world they would have tribulation, but peace in Him (**John 16:33**).

2. They/we could/can be at peace in our Lord (**II Corinthians 13:11**).

B. Life in the flesh can certainly be terrible, but we can focus on things of greater importance in those times (**Philippians 2:25-30**).

1. We can choose to dwell on the terrible (**Ecclesiastes 2:11-17**) and consider where that led Solomon in his pursuit of happiness (**I Kings 11:1-11**).

2. We can choose to set our minds and actions on things that relieve the things we are suffering through (**Psalms 119:165** and **Romans 14:19**).

3. Though, whatsoever we face, it is not so extraordinary that we cannot overcome it (**I Corinthians 10:13**).

### II. Body: **Colossians 3:14-17**

A. The peace of God (**Romans 5:1**, **I Corinthians 14:33**, and **Hebrews 13:20-21**).

1. Letting that peace rule in your heart, rather than troubles, as Jesus made clear to the Apostles (**John 14:1-3**; **14:27-31**).

2. Understanding the mindset you need (**Romans 8:6**).

3. Pursue; follow [press on to] peace (**Psalms 34:14** and **II Timothy 2:22**).

4. The state of being thankful (**Psalms 100:1-5**).

B. Certainly, we can focus on eternal life and have peace in that (**Romans 8:18**), but we also want to enjoy THIS LIFE in the here and now (**I Peter 3:10-11**).

1. You can enjoy the things you've earned (**Ecclesiastes 2:24**, **Ecclesiastes 3:12-13**, **Romans 14:5-6**, and **I Timothy 6:17**).

2. You can moderately enjoy certain carnal pleasures (**I Corinthians 10:27**, **I Timothy 4:1-5**, **Hebrews 13:4**, etc.).

3. One of the greatest gifts we have to enjoy in this life is the company of one another (**Romans 12:13**, **I Thessalonians 3:6**, and **I Peter 4:8-9**).

C. The key is thankful contentment (**Hebrews 13:5-15**)!

1. Think about Paul's inspired instruction to the congregation in Thessalonica (**I Thessalonians 5:17-18**).

2. Think about contentment (**Psalms 37:16**, **Proverbs 13:7**, and **I Timothy 6:6-10**).

### III. Conclusion: It all ties together (**Philippians 4:5-18**).