

January 13, 2025

Because God is Loyal and Faithful

Col. 3:12-17 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (NIV)

Originally written to the church at Colossae and the Jews that were being reached with the gospel, we are told that this letter of Paul was for the church. Many of them had realized that being a Jew is not enough. God chose to show Himself through the Jewish people, but many of them had made Judaism a religion and not a relationship with God. The most important thing we can glean from the Father is that we are dearly loved. And because of that, we are then to love as we have been loved. We are to treat each other as the Lord has and does treat us. Compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience are all fruits of the Holy Spirit who dwells in His people. We are to be thankful and grateful for the love that God poured out on us through the blood of Jesus. That gratitude should be visible to others. What do people see when they look at us? Do they see the love of God or the religion of a people? People don't need religion; they need a relationship with Jesus. He will then touch others through us.

Dear Father, thanks for the way you love us and for the forgiveness we received through the sacrifice Jesus made for us on the cross. Help us to be reminded consistently that You paid a price you did not owe. We owed a debt we could not pay. So, Jesus paid our sin debt! We are now set free to love as You love us. In Jesus name, AMEN