
When Jesus rose from the dead, proving He was God, what did He leave behind in the tomb?



The graveclothes, right? Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus had wrapped Jesus' body in graveclothes and placed Him in the tomb. But, when Jesus rose from the dead, He left those old graveclothes behind. He was alive and He shed those old graveclothes because they were NOW, worthless.

It's so interesting, from this example, bible scholars tell us that in the first century church, when believers were baptized, it was customary that they would be given a new robe as a symbol of their new identity in Jesus. This would symbolize the old passing away and all things becoming new.

NEW...We're into the second week of a new year, and we started talking about new beginnings, last Sunday, renewed hearts on Wed., and today, a NEW SELF.

Colossians 3:9-17

⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self^[d] with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. ¹¹ Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave,^[e] free; but Christ is all, and in all. ¹² Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing 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.¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ 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.

At some point this winter, I really believe we'll see some snow and when we do, you might see a scene like this...



That's a red oak tree where the leaves didn't fall off, and yet something pretty amazing will happen to those leaves by mid-April. As the winter ends and the sap rises in that red oak, those leaves will be pushed off for new ones...like this...



In Spring, all things become new. This too is a symbol of the new life we have in Jesus when we choose to follow Him and surrender to Him as our Lord and Savior.

And church family, this is the exact idea the Apostle Paul is seeking to get across to the Christians in Colossae. The Greek verbs in verses 9 and 10, translated "put off" and "put on" indicate a "once-for-all" action, where something dies and something new emerges. That's exactly what happens when we come to Jesus...we put off the old life and put on the new...like discarding the old graveclothes like Jesus and we put on the new self. It's been pictured like this sculpture...



Put Off The Old Man And
Put On The New Man

Isn't that a fabulous depiction of putting off the old and putting on the new. Well, I can't do that...so instead, I'm going to try to illustrate the putting off and putting on with a robe, like the first century church gave to those being baptized...

I have a bathrobe here. And this is going to represent the New Kevin... When I gave my life to Christ, I died to my old self and put on my new self. It's the idea of replacement. You get rid of the old and you receive from the Lord Jesus, a marvelous new identity. In other words, at salvation, you become new, different and you choose to follow Jesus...to walk in His steps...



Have you done that? Have you chosen to follow Jesus? Listen, the moment you did, all things became new and you began to change from the inside-out. That's verse 10.

Colossians 3:10

¹⁰and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

Listen, that knowledge is the entire subject and purpose of this letter to the Colossians. Remember, false teachers had come and were teaching lies and seeking to move the people away from the Word of God. So the purpose of the letter was to distinguish that which is true from false...



Church, when you and I are born again, our minds begin to be renewed. That's:

Romans 12:2

²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

When you and I get saved, we are renewed, transformed in knowledge in that the Holy Spirit begins to rewire our minds. We live a NEW life in spirit and truth. And when I say, "We"...that's anybody... because Jesus came for everyone. He died for the world! So you see, the ground is level at the cross.

Colossians 3:11

¹¹ Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

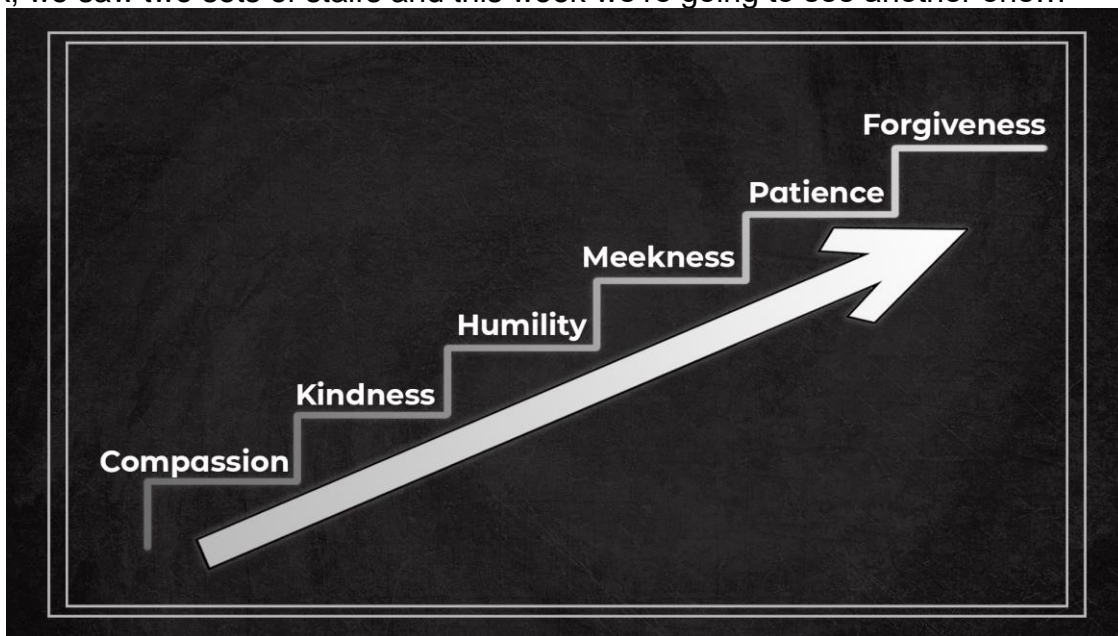
Listen church family, the Church of Jesus Christ doesn't distinguish between gender, nationalities, race or social status, we are all ONE in Jesus! We are the family of God...red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in His sight, Jesus loves the little children of the world. He came for all and Paul reminds the Colossians of that fact; because it appears they were being told otherwise.

Verse 12 will show us that...now Church this is where we're going to pick up tremendous speed... We're going to see the marvelous characteristics of a changed life...the New Self...

Colossians 3:12-13

¹² Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing 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.

Last week, we saw two sets of stairs and this week we're going to see another one...



Now I could have shown this set of six characteristics of the NEW SELF by way of a clothes hanger and if I had, I would have had compassion be the hanger and I would have had the other five characteristics hanging from that hanger, compassion...and here's why. If you don't have compassion, you'll never get the rest. If you don't have compassion, you won't show kindness, humility, meekness, patience nor forgiveness. But if you have compassion, you'll get the rest.

COMPASSION

What is compassion? In the Greek it literally means "the bowels" or the "gut." It's what you feel in the pit of your stomach when something really means a lot to you. Compassion or your gut is considered the "seat of sympathy." When you're concerned, often your stomach aches.

Remember when Jesus came into Jerusalem for the last time? See the depiction of that...



He came by way of the Mount of Olives and He eventually stopped and He looked over the city of Jerusalem, and what did He do?

Luke 19:41

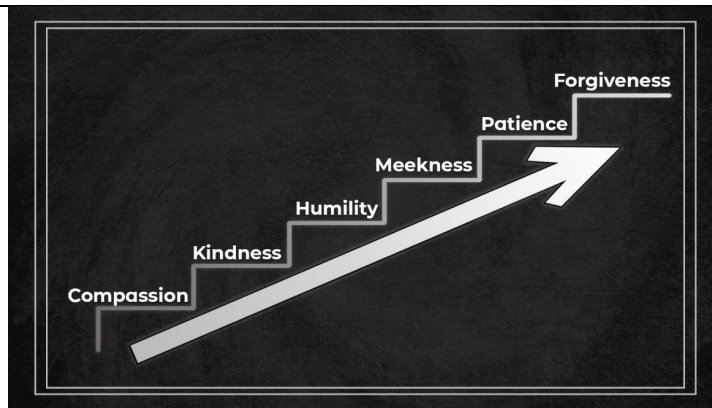
⁴¹ And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it.

You know, when you read through the Gospels you'll see the compassion of Jesus. One example...

Matthew 9:36

³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

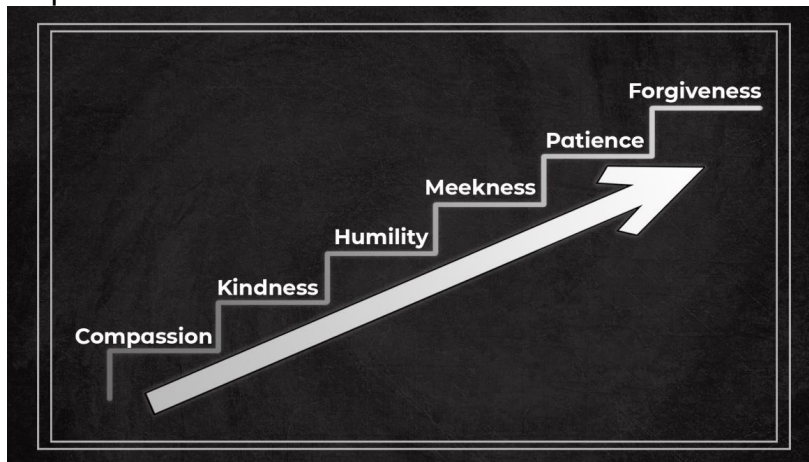
Jesus was concerned about the poor, the sick, the crippled, the deaf, the blind, the orphaned, the widows...and He brought relief and comfort, and healing...Jesus had compassion...and when we choose to follow Him...in His footprints in the snow we will too... and that will lead to the second characteristic...



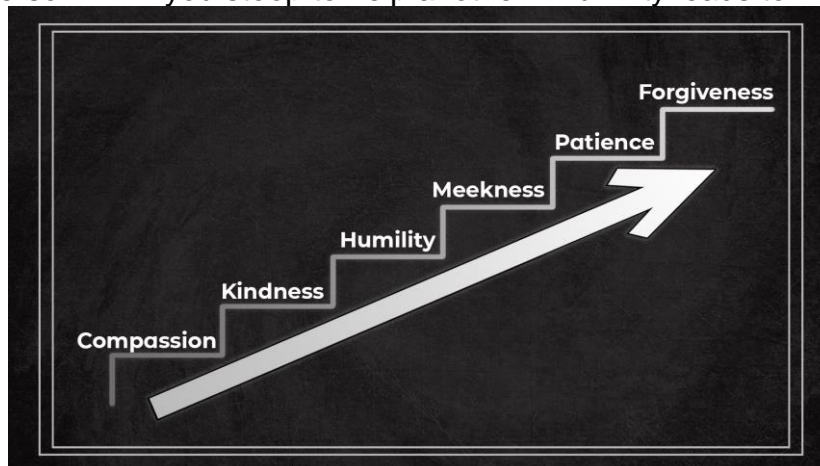
KINDNESS... We know Jesus was always kind... One of my favorite accounts of Jesus' life was the day the synagogue ruler in Capernaum came to Jesus and asked Him to heal his daughter. Jesus was on His way, but He stopped when a lady who had been bleeding in terrible pain for 12 years, touched Him and was healed There's a painting, a mural in Magdala today of how that might have looked...



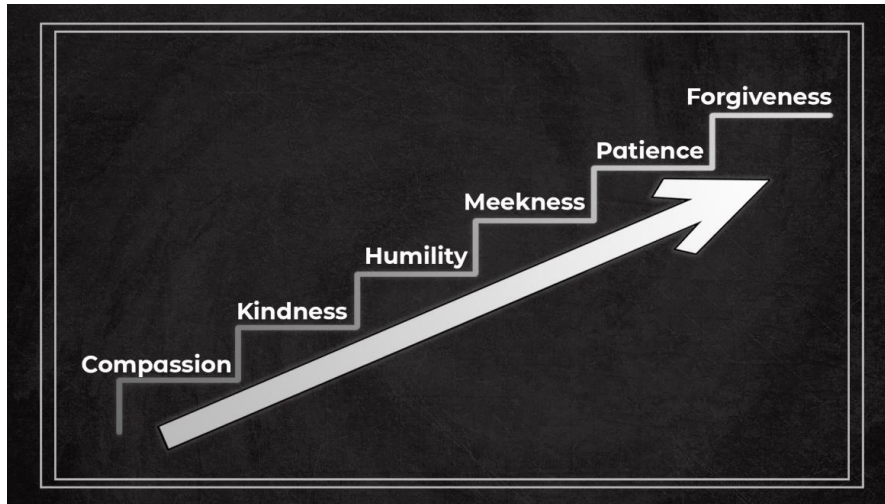
Jesus showed such great kindness to stop on this urgent trip to heal this little girl to help this lady. That's a great lesson for us...as Christians there are going to be times when it looks like we are being interrupted, but often those are divine appointments... Will we show kindness? The next characteristic on the steps of the New SELF is:



HUMILITY-The pagan world did not admire humility...they desired to be above others...what was admired in the Roman Empire was pride and domination. To be humble was considered weakness; yet as a Christian, we're called to be humble...to think of others better than ourselves. Are you a humble person? Will you stoop to help another? Humility leads to...



MEEKNESS-It's been said that meekness is power under control. In the Greek, the word meekness describes a soothing wind. Think of that...wind is powerful...but in this case it's soothing wind...not strong wind, like a hurricane...but a soothing wind. You say, that's useless...no it's not, a soothing we can be captured by a sail and that soothing wind can move a massive ship. All because the wind has been harnessed. Next on the steps of the New Self...



PATIENCE-The word literally means “long-temper.” It means no matter how much you are provoked; you don’t retaliate in anger. You refuse to be dominated by your emotions, particularly anger. Now understand, anger isn’t wrong when, for instance, you see someone hurt a child or see someone steal an old lady’s purse...that makes us angry and we want to do something about it. We’re not talking about that kind of anger, no...we’re to be patient with one another. I love...

Galatians 6:1

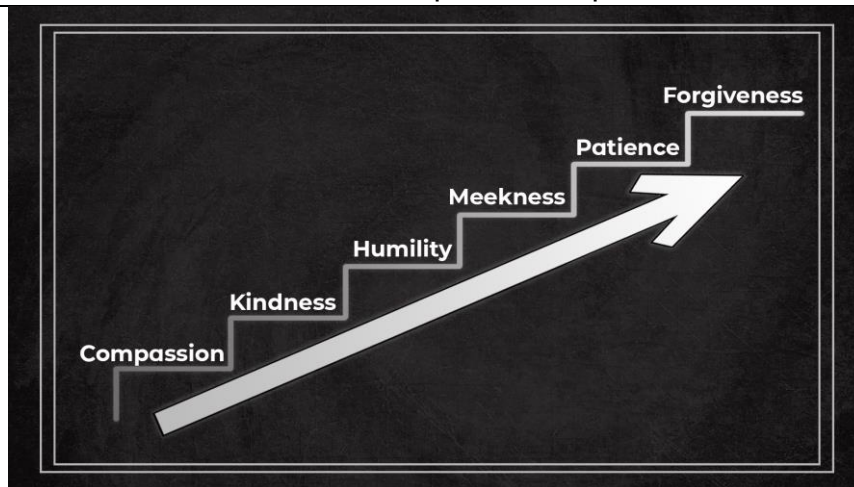
Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.

Are you patient with others? Others in the church...brothers and sisters? Paul told Timothy...

1 Timothy 1:16

¹⁶ But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.

Aren’t you glad Jesus is patient? I am! And that patience leads to the amazing grace of His amazing forgiveness. And so, now we’re at the top of the steps!



When you put on the new self, you will show compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, FORGIVENESS-In the Greek, forgiveness means: “to hold yourself back.” In other words, when you are tempted to fly off the handle, you hold yourself back...and isn’t this the logical conclusion to everything we’ve just seen. When you and I show forgiveness that is actually the heart of the Gospel because Jesus came to die for our sins and show us forgiveness. Forgiveness means you actually forgive the troublemaker and that was me.

But forgiveness is hard isn't it? See it again...

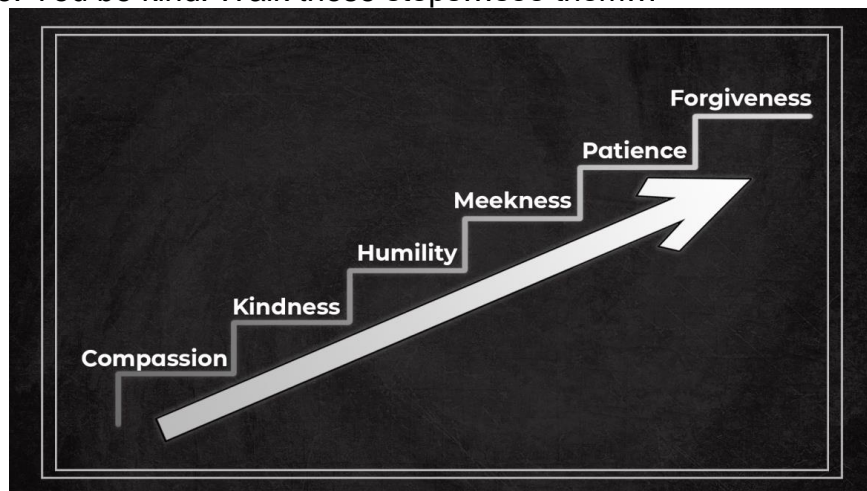
Colossians 3:13

¹³ bearing 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.

Don't miss that: "YOU ALSO MUST FORGIVE." How many times? What did Jesus say? 70 x 7. That doesn't mean 490, that means infinite. Christians are forgiving people...we ARE "turn the other cheek people," we are "walk the second mile people"...NO we're not to be doormats and we don't let people walk all over us and never stand up for what is right...No...we have to stand for truth...but, we are not going to hold a grudge toward someone who doesn't like us.

The phrase "forgiving each other" in verse 13 means "in the fellowship" of the believers in Colossae, that's the church. It means: "a forgiving fellowship." We are to be that here. We are to be a people who do not hold grudges, but forgive one another...we are to be a people who speaks to everyone (we don't high hat one another) that's not what the NEW SELF does. We just exist in cliques or create an "us versus them" mentality. Jesus would never do that, and nor should we.

You say, "They never speak to me." So what!!! YOU speak to them. Maybe you are further up the steps than they are. You be kind. Walk those steps...see them...



Jesus was the greatest model of forgiveness in all history...He totally forgave, no strings attached and that was to people who didn't deserve it, "while we were still sinners." And NOW WE MUST DO THE SAME... How does that look? Let me show you:

THROW THE ROBE!

You take the robe and you throw it over someone who doesn't deserve it. Someone who has been unkind to you or hasn't spoken to you. You show compassion and kindness, humility, meekness and patience...and when you go to someone and do this...it is so overwhelming and so amazingly gracious...they will literally be covered in Love. Love covers a multitude of sins and it's love that binds it all together.

Colossians 3:14

¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

Love is the belt/sash for my robe...it cinches it all together. See it like this:



Listen, you and I will never experience compassion for people until we choose to love. We will never experience kindness, until we choose to love. We'll never know the meaning of humility and meekness and bearing with one another until we what? Choose to LOVE. See the screens:

1 Corinthians 13:4-8a

⁴ Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;^[b] ⁶ it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸ Love never ends.

Church, when we're showing these characteristics of the New Self to a lost and dying world...when we've CHOSEN to PUT ON THE ROBE, we'll act different and it blow people's minds. But listen, we talked about this Wed. night, you and I can't muster this in our own strength...it will take surrendering to the Holy Spirit, because it's He, who gives us the ability to walk in the footprints of Jesus, because AFTER ALL, the Holy Spirit is our Helper and our Teacher! Will you surrender to what the Holy Spirit is saying to you? Will you listen to Him and put on the robe?

And then we get to verse 15 and a "LET"...from "put on" to L-E-T...watch it...

Colossians 3:15

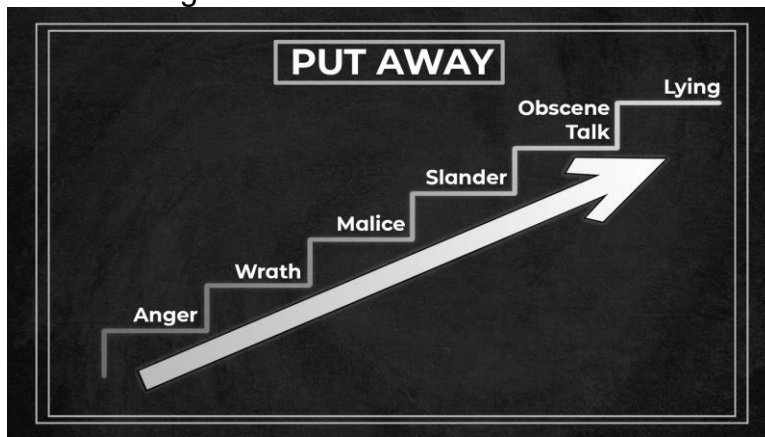
¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

"Let" means we choose to allow peace to rule us. What does it mean for something to rule us? Well, to rule means to sit on a throne. We must LET peace sit on the throne of our heart. You know Jesus walked in peace. After all, He was AND is the prince of Peace. And you know what...when we walk in His steps...



we walk in peace. **Question:** When you walk away from a situation what do you typically leave in your wake? Peace or strife? Are you a peaceful person, or a “stir it up” person? Do you stir up trouble or seek to tamp it down? Jesus said, “Blessed are the peacemakers.”

We have to let “peace” rule our lives...that’s putting on the robe...We throw the robe...we throw peace on the situation, not strife. Ask yourself...before you send the email or the text or make the sharp comment...ask yourself...is this going to bring peace or strife. Again, we’re not talking about sacrificing TRUTH just so there can be peace. Jesus confronted the Pharisees very sharply...but, the question is...are we allowing our anger, our emotions to build up to the point of strife... Remember, church that’s the wrong set of stairs...



We must let peace reign and here’s the next LET.

Colossians 3:16A

¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom...

That phrase, “Dwell in you richly,” means: “to make a home.” The Word of God is to have a HOME in your life. And you know what...when you and I allow the Word of God to be at home in our lives, there will be peace. Problem is...there’s LITTLE peace in our lives, because there’s so LITTLE of the Word in our lives.

It’s really quite simple Church. We’ve got to read the Bible, and not only that...we just read that we’ve got to TEACH and ADMONISH with it as well. Question: Can you teach the Bible? Your first reaction will be to say, No, even the Scripture we just read says you should be able to teach it. Why can’t we? Well, you can’t teach what you don’t know. And you can’t teach and instruct with something that you seldom read. We can teach people how to navigate Facebook and our TV’s and our phones, but how about the word of God? We’re to be workman who needs not be ashamed and can rightly handle the Word of truth!

I encourage you to read the Bible. You say, “Every day?”... That’s up to you... I’m not going to be legalistic and say you have to read it every day...but, I like to eat every day, because I need food...so, I wouldn’t take too many days off.

Look at the last part of verse 16...see what else we are to do? SING!!!!

Colossians 3:16b

...singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Okay...let me see if I can set up the flow of what we’ve seen...

To have THE peace that we've just described, it's going to demand that we allow the Holy Spirit to have His way in our lives and that means allowing the Word of God to dwell in us richly...and we know the Bible is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. So, we know that when we read it...that's how we can see the steps of Jesus...right...so the footprints in the snow...



the Word of God lights up the steps...just like the sun in that picture...this is the way. Church, we must be people who study the Word like the Bereans, who studied the Scriptures daily. And the Word of God is to dwell in us RICHLY! We're not talking about a spiritual snack. We read it, study it and live it...and then we can go out and teach it and admonish, warn and help people with it. And where do we wind up...SINGING!!!

Psalms
Hymns
Spiritual songs

What are the **Psalms**...that's Old Testament...coming mainly from David. Most of the Psalms were written to be sung. **Hymns**, they are expressions of praise to the Lord. **Spiritual songs**: they emphasize personal testimony about the Lord.

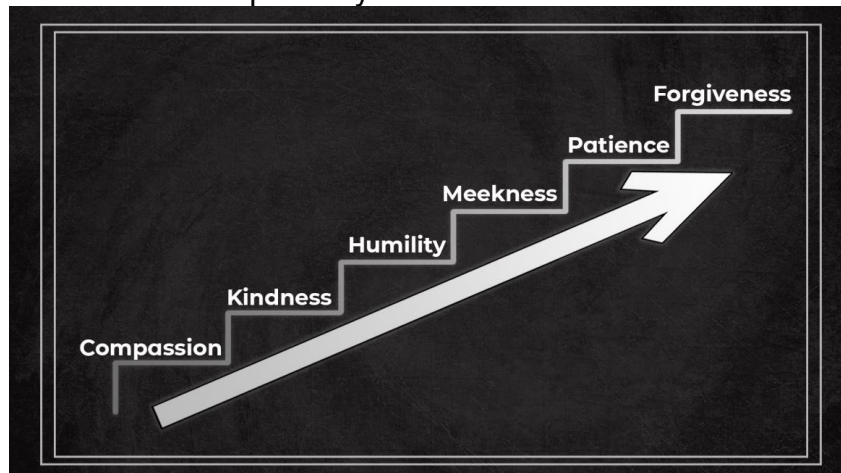
So, when we sing...who do we sing to? God...see it again...

Colossians 3:16b

...singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

We sing to the Lord... How? With thankfulness! Church, there's something about singing that can bring thankfulness, even to a hurting heart! Sometimes I force myself to sing, even when I don't want to...because it makes me thankful.

So, we've been up another set of steps today:



and where do we end up? Let's put the bow on the package:

Colossians 3:17

¹⁷ 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.

I want us to end our time together by singing... Would you STAND WITH ME? I want to invite anyone here today who needs Jesus to come back to our living room...that's kind of how we've set it up...to the Decision Room...we're here for you to pray with and encourage you.

I want you to see the screens and I want us to sing with a thankful heart! WHO YOU SAY I AM...

"Who You Say I Am"

Who the Son sets free

Oh is free indeed

I'm a child of God

Yes I am

In my Father's house

There's a place for me

I'm a child of God

Yes I am

Look at those words... I'm a child of God...that's a personal testimony. That's a spiritual song...a song of thankfulness...which we just sang TO THE LORD. So church, we leave today with a song on our heart and a robe in our hand...be willing to put it on and from time to time, to throw onto others so that they might now what we know. The love of Jesus!
