

Colossians 3:15 "And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful."

As we looked for a verse for our pastors for pastor's appreciation, we got out my Life Application Study Bible and looked up "thanks", "thankful" and "thanksgiving" using the NLT dictionary/concordance. We were especially thankful for the resources we have at our fingertips everyday that helped us out when writing a thank you, but also when asked to write this devotional at a time when we are so busy this beautiful fall time of the year.

We picked this verse as it seemed appropriate for telling our pastors thanks. I also picked it because of the word "peace" which is so appropriate in our world today as everyone struggles for peace. In an ideal world, everyone would get along and feel the peace of God in their lives. "For members of one body" reminded me that as a church we should live in peace. It does not mean we do not have differences, but that loving Christians work together despite their differences. Paul wrote Colossians to offer the new believers a strategy to help live for God day-by-day, and this still applies today.

"And always be thankful". Those four little words are so important. It is so easy to complain or question things that happen in our lives. It is so easy to see the differences that cause us not to be thankful or worry about our world. A prayer strategy that I was taught was to start out with telling God what we are thankful for that day. Things look just a little brighter when we start out with thanks. So, what are you thankful for today?

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