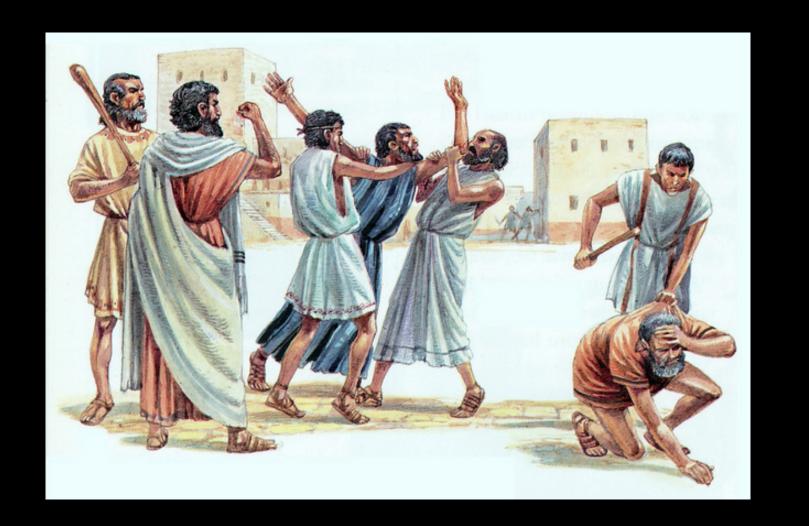
Unnatural Gratitude

(GRATITUDE AS A SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE)

Because of the ultimate triumph of God's goodness in Christ over everything, we are free to be grateful.

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18



"in Christ Jesus"

1 THESSALONIANS 5:18

People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—having a form of godliness but denying its power.

2 TIMOTHY 3:1-5

People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, beastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—having a form of godliness but denying its power.

2 TIMOTHY 3:1-5

...always give thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

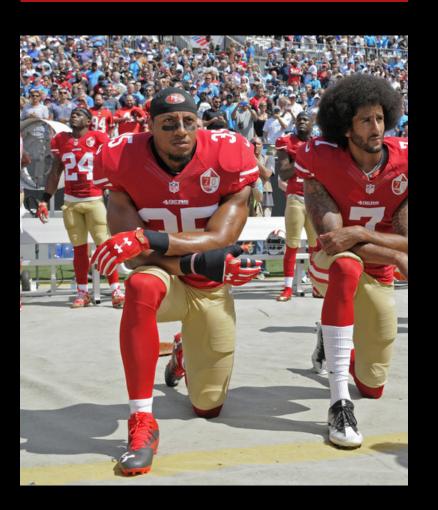
EPHESIANS 5:20

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EPHESIANS 5:20





The ultimate triumph of God's goodness in Christ over everything.

This is what God planned for the climax of all times: to bring all things together in Christ, the things in heaven along with the things on earth.

EPHESIANS 1:10

God reconciled all things to himself through Christ—whether things on earth or in the heavens. He brought peace through the blood of his cross.

COLOSSIANS 1:20

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more... I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling is here with humankind. He will dwell With them, and they will be be his peoples.

REVELATION 21:1, 3-5

God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more. There will be no mourning, crying, or pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." Then the one seated on the throne said, "Look! I'm making all things new."

REVELATION 21:1, 3-5

Because of the ultimate triumph of God's goodness in Christ over everything, you are free to be grateful.

"Our offering of thanksgiving is an act of worship, not an explanation of cause and effect. It is the confession of the goodness of God when the enemy seeks to force from us a denial."

STEPHEN FREEMAN

"That for which we cannot or will not give thanks is that which we are excluding from the Kingdom—from the possibility of redemption in Christ... The limitations of our thanks...is also a limitation on God's grace, refusing for His grace to work in all the world and for it to work in the whole of our own lives."

STEPHEN FREEMAN

Because of the ultimate triumph of God's goodness in Christ over everything, you are free to be grateful.