Heart of Thanksgiving

Intro. Ordained MBC & Chairman Board MBC

- 1. Unique Bible College only teaches Word God
- Purpose Preparing men/women all ages 18 and above, all races & socioeconomic backgrounds train for ministry. This is not just pastors but anyone increase knowledge Bible. Spread gospel communities, Milwaukee, State, U.S. & all nations
- 3. Teaching people to teach others
- 4. Founded 22 years ago
- 5. Several years 40 different churches
- African affiliated school w/ MBC Uganda 2018 trained pastors eight African nations planting churches. Train teachers, elders as well
 - a. Ministry establish 30 years ago
 - Trained many pastors planted more than 500 churches
- A. Testimony Ps. 40:1-4
 - 1. Conquering self hatred
 - 2. Renewal Mind
 - a. Rom. 12:1-2
- B. Habitually focus & Center heart, thoughts, Jesus-Heart very essence life. That is what Jesus wants from us, our hearts
 - a. Concentrate fact resurrected Jesus-need live resurrection power
 - b. Are you truly living in Jesus's resurrection life?
 - c. Meditate Heavenly heritage, true home
 - i. Freedom from pain, sorrow, suffering, sickness, stress, anxiety, depression, anger

- ii. Complete joy, perfect love, peace, pure light living presences Jesus all eternity
- d. View self under Jesus blood
 - i. Pure, Holy, righteous, loving
- e. Heart full love resting His unconditional love
- 2. Depressed person meditates how awful, wretched, ugly sinner they are
 - a. Our thought-life often destructive
 - i. Tear self apart for sinful words/actions
 - ii. We all have evil thoughts
 - 1. Don't meditate on jealousy, envy, anger, malice, lustful, greedy, slanderous thoughts
 - b. Must not give word, acknowledge or recognize evil thoughts. When have these thoughts immediately start praising & thanking Jesus for who he is & what he has done for us. This transforming or renewing mind. Must constantly be renewing mines.
- 3. Vs. 3 Don't you realize dead world
 - a. Buried w/ Christ through baptism
 - b. "Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?" Rom. 6:3
- 4. Vs. 4 When Christ returns we like Him Glorious splendor-radiant light
- 5. Vs. 5-6 Put death, deprive all earthly carnal thoughts
 - Sexual immorality, impurity, lust, sensual appetites, evil desires, greed, being consumed w/self; these are all forms idolatry because it replaces your devotion to God
 - b. Wrath God coming sons disobedient who obstinately disregards God's precepts
 - i. Yes on the disobedient but also on the church if continue to walk in these ways
 - c. Church must purify self
- 6. Vs. 7-8 Stripe off & rid yourself of "anger, rage, malice, slander, and abusive, filthy, vulgar language from your lips."

- d. Must strip off old self, all evil thoughts & actions, any destructive habit patterns and thoughts
- e. Put on new self Concentrate on who we are in Christ, Concentrate who God is, acknowledge Him in all our thoughts/actions
- f. Have you truly died to your flesh?
- g. Meditate fact raised dead-raised from sinful flesh
 - Flesh is dead if we live in Christ
- h. Live new identity-saint of God-one w/ Christ
- 2. Then shouldn't we live like Jesus?
 - a. You say that is impossible.. No it isn't because God is the God of the impossible.
 - b. We live by faith & when sin have advocate w/ Father-Jesus 1Jn 2:1 "My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father - Jesus Christ, the righteous One."
- 3. Confess & repent sins receive God's forgiveness.
 - a. Do not let Satan condemn you & cause you live guilt & shame.
 - b. No matter how bad think sin is God's forgiveness greater
 - c. St. Paul was a murderer look how God transformed him to mighty evangelist, Church planter and writer of 3/3 NT
- 4. Must live resurrection life-concentrate who we are Jesus & not on all worldly struggles, pain, sorrow & problems.
 - a. Remember this not true home-meditate on heavenly home, when be free all earthly struggles
- D. Vs. 10-11 "And have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its creator. Here there is no gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free but Christ is all, and is in all."
 - Cloth yourself new spiritual self continually being renewed, remolded into fuller, more complete knowledge of God.
 Realizing who you are, made in the image and likeness God

- 2. Believers are equal in Christ without distinction
- E. Vs 12 "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy [set apart, sanctified for his purpose] and dearly loved [by God himself], clothe yourselves [put on a heart of] with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." These characteristics have "power endure whatever injustices or unpleasantness that comes, with good temper" Amp.
- F. Vs. 13-14 "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you have 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."
 - 1. Need bear graciously with one another
 - 2. Willingness to forgive this is difficult when someone grievously has harmed you but this is what Jesus has called us to do
 - 3. Think Jesus cross he said to those crucifying him "forgive them for they know not what they are doing." Lk 23:34
- G. Vs. 14 "And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity."
 - 1. Wrap yourselves unselfish love. For God is love
 - 2. "Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world so we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins." 1 Jn 4:8-10
 - 3. God demonstrated his unconditional love toward us giving thee ultimate love gift of His only begotten Son die for sins so we can be forgiven, through confession. Then be set free from all condemnation
- H. Vs. 15 "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful."

- Have Peace or inner calm most daily meditate on God's word and walk Jesus
- 2. As Christians called live Jesus peace
- Key peace is always being thankful to God in every circumstance
- 4. Victory overcoming all circumstances is a heart of thanksgiving
- I. Vs. 16-17 "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."
 - 1. Meditate on Jesus word, abide in His word, let His word permeate heart
 - 2. Admonish, train & teach one another in all God's wisdom through singing psalms, hymns & songs from the spirit with great thanksgiving, praise & worship
 - 3. Notice that giving thanks or having gratitude in hearts is mentioned 3 times in verse 15, 16, 17

J. Conclusion:

- 1. Heart of thanksgiving key living victorious life in Christ
- 2. Key overcoming depression is being thankful all blessing God bestowed on you
- 3. Worshipping God is key to overcoming all circumstances
- 4. Let us have hearts thanksgiving so the world will see our love, joy & peace

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