

Eucharistic Homily

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 16, 2018

The last little phrase of 3:17 may seem insignificant, but, in many ways, it's the key to the whole verse. How do you do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus? By giving thanks to God. Thank God while driving or washing dishes or cutting grass. Thank God while sitting in the doctor's office or waiting in the checkout line or doing your schoolwork. Thank God for your spouse, your kids, and the other difficult people He has put in your life. The way that you do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus is by giving thanks to the Father through Him.

This way of life requires a great deal of faith, because we spend much of our lives doing things that don't appear to provide any cause for gratitude. We often find it hard to believe that God could be involved in this or that aspect of life. We often don't see any way that our trials and afflictions could be part of God's good will for our life.

This is why we need the Lord's Supper—the Eucharist—to cultivate within us a heart of gratitude for all of God's gifts. Like so many situations in our lives, it takes a great deal of faith to see how the Lord's Supper—a tiny piece of bread and a little sip of wine—should give us any cause for thanksgiving. But we trust the promises of God and receive His gracious gifts in faith. And when we learn to approach the Lord's Table in faith with thanksgiving, we are being trained to give thanks in a thousand other circumstances where God's gracious gifts are disguised by the ordinary things of life.

If you've been baptized into Christ and are seeking to live faithfully and obediently for Him, you are invited to partake of this feast that Jesus has prepared for us. These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

Pastor Jimmy Gill

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