

The Bible teaches both, so how do we do both?

- Because the Bible repeatedly tells us to spend time in creation – think about (Adam), meditate (Psalm 104), “love your neighbor,” God wants us on Earth
- The majority of our time should be spent living the Integrated Approach
- The Comparative Approach is used as a test to make sure we love God Supremely (Do you put God at the top?)
 - Sometimes God will test you
 - Trials, tribulations, difficulties, tragedy, suffering, pruning (makes you stronger)
 - Sometimes you need to test yourself
 - Self-Denial
 - Examples – Fasting, sacrificial giving, doing without something and replacing it with God

So how do we reconcile this? – 2 Approaches

1.) **Comparative Approach** – Put God on scales

2.) **Integrated Approach**

a.) We love God Supremely

b.) Now we're free to love creation as creation (not an idol)

How do we do that?

Examples – Adam meeting Eve, Giving Christmas gifts, Vicki's Bang Bang Shrimp

c.) We don't set the gift and the giver in opposition to each other (scales)

Where Should We Set Our Minds?

Colossians 3:1-4

Colossians 3:5-6

“Set Your Mind” – Greek “Phroneo” – Orient your life by it, It guides you, Mindset

What does that look like?

Colossians 3

12 – Be patient and kind

13 – Bear with and forgive one another

14 – Love each other

15 – Seek peace and **be thankful**

16 – Learn, teach, and sing about the Lord to each other

17 – **Be thankful**

18 – Wives submit to husbands

19 – Husbands love your wives

20 – Children obey your parents (God likes it)

21 – Fathers love your kids

22-24 – Are you under authority? Work like you're serving God

4:1 – Are you in authority? Treat your workers right

2 – Pray and **be thankful**

3-4 – Pray for missionaries as they spread the gospel

5-6 – Show unbelievers how to live by living Godly lives, point them to Christ

Philippians 3:7-8 – But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ

Philippians 3:18-19 – For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.

Philippians 4:6-8 – do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

Romans 1:18-25

The 2 great sins in the world: v.21

- 1.) Idolatry – “they did not honor him as God”
- 2.) Ingratitude – “or give thanks to him”

Idolatry

What is idolatry?

Examples :

- My OCD
- Wealth

As Christians, we fear idolatry. So, many times we **overcorrect** and distance ourselves from creation (the good gift)

- Colossians 2:20-23 – Why no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh?

Example – Simeon Stylites



Idolatry

What is idolatry?

Examples :

- My OCD
- Wealth

As Christians, we fear idolatry. So, many times we **overcorrect** and distance ourselves from creation (the good gift)

- Colossians 2:20-23 – Why no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh?
- 1 Timothy 4:1-5

Idolatry

The Devils Plan

Genesis 2:15-17

Genesis 3:1 – What did the devil try to do? Restrict God’s good gift (creation)

He wants you to believe that God is a forbiddener of good things, killing your joy (my friend from college).

Not a loving Father showering you with good gifts.

Genesis 3:2-3 – **Romans 1:25** – “because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator”

Romans 1:18-25

The 2 great sins in the world: v.21

- 1.) Idolatry – “they did not honor him as God”
- 2.) Ingratitude – “or give thanks to him”

Ingratitude

Why is being thankful such a big deal?

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 - Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, **give thanks** in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Colossians 3

12 – Be patient and kind

13 – Bear with and forgive one another

14 – Love each other

15 – Seek peace and **be thankful**

16 – Learn, teach, and sing about the Lord to each other

17 – **Be thankful**

18 – Wives submit to husbands

19 – Husbands love your wives

20 – Children obey your parents (God likes it)

21 – Fathers love your kids

22-24 – Are you under authority? Work like you're serving God

4:1 – Are you in authority? Treat your workers right

2 – Pray and **be thankful**

3-4 – Pray for missionaries as they spread the gospel

5-6 – Show unbelievers how to live by living Godly lives, point them to Christ

Philippians 3:7-8 – But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ

Philippians 3:18-19 – For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.

Philippians 4:6-8 – do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

1 Timothy 4:3-5 – who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods **that God created to be received with thanksgiving** by those who believe and know the truth. For everything created by God is good, and **nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving**, for it is **made holy by the word of God and prayer**.

Ingratitude

Why is being thankful such a big deal?

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 - Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, **give thanks** in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Example of How to do this

Ingratitude

Why is being thankful such a big deal?

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 - Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, **give thanks** in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Mark 9:2-13 – (Luke 9:28 – to pray)

Mark 9:14-18 – (Mark 6:7-13)

Mark 9:19-29