WVC "The Art of Thankfulness" Sun Nov 8, 2026

I. ***Colossians 3:12-17***

A. Be Thankful

1. ***Thankful – Grateful, Appreciative, Glad***
2. Is there something of which you can be thankful today?

B. ***Giving Thanks***

1. The Art…
   - Why is it an art?
   - Art takes time, effort, patience, and a lot of detail. To be steadfast in your thankfulness, it is a work of art! (You are the painter…)
2. What do you think of when you hear the phrase, "Give Thanks"?
   - Giving Grace (Prayer over your food)
   - ***Mark 6:41*** *"He looked up to heaven and blessed*" (*to speak well of, to thank or invoke a benediction upon, prosper, praise*).

II. ***Ephesians 5:17-21***

A. Understanding the Will of the Lord…

1. This is a powerful statement that contradicts all religious traditions ("We can never know the Will of God", "His ways are higher than our ways", etc.)
2. God's Will for your life is to be happy! And this is how you gain it:
   - ***Be Filled with the Spirit*** (not with worldly counterfeits that don't last)
   - ***Sing and Make Melody with Spiritual Songs*** (Songs that line up with the Word and Glorify Jesus).
   - ***Give Thanks in*** _____ (Attitude of Gratitude)
   - ***Learn the Power of Submission and Accountability***

B. ***Hebrews 13:15***

1. ***Sacrifice*** – This is the Art of Thankfulness; ***Gratitude is an action not a mood!*** (The ten lepers in ***Luke 17:14-19***; only one came back and gave thanks. The 9 were not evil people; they were just absorbed in their own blessing. They took the gift and forgot the Giver! When we fail to cultivate the art of thankfulness, we join the ranks of the nine. We receive breath in our lungs, food on our table, grace for our failures, and mercy for our souls—and we walk right past Jesus without a backward glance.
2. Stop treating gratitude like a passive weather watcher (I feel thankful today because the sun is out…), and start being and active grateful Christian that shows forth the praises of the Most High.
3. ***I Peter 2:9*** *"You are a* _____ _____*…."*
4. Start Naming Your Blessings Out Loud – Complaining builds a prison of bitterness; Gratitude builds a sanctuary of peace!