



# HISTORY OF GRATITUDE: ESCHATOLOGICAL PARTICIPATION IN TRIUNE GRACIOUSNESS

Response to Robert A. Emmons, “The Story of Gratitude: From an  
Ancient Religious Practice to a Modern Global Movement”

The Fuller Symposium on the Integration of Psychology and Theology  
annual lectures, “The Science and Spirit of Gratefulness: Twenty-five  
Years of Progress”

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# St Paul as the primordial theologian of global-gratitude-expansion!

- ... giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ (**Ephesians 5.20**)
- Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God (**Philippians 4.6**)
- And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him (**Colossians 3.17**)
- ...give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you (**1 Thessalonians 5.18**)

# Global-gratitude-expansion: eschatological-apocalyptic dimensions

- ... And whenever the living creatures give glory and honour and thanks to the one who is seated on the throne, who lives for ever and ever ... (**Revelation 4.9**)
- ... singing, 'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen' (**Revelation 7.12**)
- ... singing,  
    'We give you thanks, Lord God Almighty,  
    who are and who were,  
for you have taken your great power  
    and begun to reign... (**Revelation 11.17**)

# Toward global-gratitude-expansion: apostolic gratitude

- ... giving thanks in light of the end: “The believers\* from there, when they heard of us, came as far as the Forum of Appius and Three Taverns to meet us. On seeing them, Paul thanked God and took courage” (**Acts of the Apostles 28.15**)
- ... while in the middle: “After he had said this, he took bread; and giving thanks to God in the presence of all, he broke it and began to eat” (**Acts of the Apostles 27.35**)