

THE POWER OF GRATITUDE

“The Evidence of Gratitude: Excellent Living and Faithful Giving”

(Colossians 3:23-24)

“Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance it is the Lord Christ whom you serve.”

“In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes.”
(Judges 17:6)

“There is a way which seems right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.” *(Proverbs 14:12)*

❖ **Excellent Living is An Expression of Gratitude**

Why should we strive for excellence?

- God Is Worthy

“Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; His greatness no one can fathom.” *(Ps 145:3)*

“You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.” *(Revelation 4:11)*

- Opportunities are Abundant

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving." (Colossians 3:23-24)

- ▶ First, it gives the quality of your work new importance.

"The society which scorns excellence in plumbing because plumbing is a humble activity and tolerates shoddiness in philosophy because it is an exalted activity will have neither good plumbing nor good philosophy. Neither its pipes nor its theories will hold water." - John Gardner

- ▶ Second, it gives your work new purpose.

How will your job be done differently because you are a Christian?

What difference does your presence make in that workplace?

Can anybody tell the difference?

When you do well, do you give Him the credit?

Are your professional ethics guided by your faith, or do you leave your Christianity at the door when you go into work?

- ▶ And third, it honors God and expresses our appreciation.

"He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all--how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?" (Romans 8:32)

- God gave the best He had - His own Son, Jesus Christ

- Jesus Christ gave His best for us - His own life

❖ Faithful Giving is An Expression of Gratitude

What He really wants from us is:

- Our Worship

We were designed to ...

- Worship God with Time and Treasure
- First Things are Holy Unto the Lord

For example,

- In the Garden of Eden, God reserved the TREE for Himself.
- In the Promised Land, God reserved the city of Jericho for Himself.
- In the NT, God reserved the FIRST DAY for Himself.

- Giving from the Heart not Just by Command
 - Time and treasure are symbols of our devotion and love to God and, as such, it counteracts the hold of the world upon us.
 - Time and treasure are declarations of our faith in God to meet our daily needs and to take care of our supply (*Genesis 14:20-23*)

- It is an acknowledgement that God is the source of all we have.
 - It is an important key to daily blessings and financial stability (*Mal. 3:9-12*)
 - If you sow time into God, He will sow time into you.
 - If you sow treasure into God, He will sow treasures into you. (*Galatians 6:7; Proverbs 3:9-10*).
- Worship God with Attitude and Ability