



WEEK 3: HATEFUL TO GRATEFUL

November 28, 2021

Romans 1:8-12 - First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world.⁹ For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I mention you¹⁰ always in my prayers, asking that somehow by God's will I may now at last succeed in coming to you.¹¹ For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you—¹² that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine.

Jesus Christ is King of turning the hateful into the grateful

Acts 22:3-8 - "I am a Jew, born in Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated at the feet of Gamaliel according to the strict manner of the law of our fathers, being zealous for God as all of you are this day.⁴ I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering to prison both men and women,⁵ as the high priest and the whole council of elders can bear me witness. From them I received letters to the brothers, and I journeyed toward Damascus to take those also who were there and bring them in bonds to Jerusalem to be punished.⁶ As I was on my way and drew near to Damascus, about noon a great light from heaven suddenly shone around me.⁷ And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?'⁸ And I answered, 'Who are you, Lord?' And he said to me, 'I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.'"

The Holy Spirit moves us from hateful to grateful when we join God's mission to reach people where they are and lead them to full devotion to King Jesus the Christ

Ephesians 1:13-23 - In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.¹⁵ For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints,¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers,¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him,¹⁸ having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places,²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.²² And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church,²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

What practical steps can we take to join God's mission to reach people where they are and lead them to full devotion in Christ?

1. Start 'em young!

Matthew 11:25 - At that time Jesus declared, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children

2. Stop church-bashing and start church-building

Philippians 1:3-5 - I thank my God in all my remembrance of you,⁴ always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy,⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.

3. Invite five people to celebrate Christmas Eve with One Missoula Church

Acts 2:46-47 - And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts,⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.