

Thankful

Part 3

“Thankful for You”

Thank You to everyone for all of the cards and gifts from last months Pastor Appreciation !

Part 1 - Thankful for Hope

I'm Thankful for a Hope that Fills

I'm Thankful for a Hope that Saves

I'm Thankful for a Hope that Anchors

Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so **that you may overflow with hope** by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Hebrews 6:19

We have this **hope as an anchor** for the soul, firm and secure.

Part 2 - Thankfulness is intentional

Jesus was thankful when there wasn't enough

Jesus was thankful in the midst of difficulty

Thankfulness is the language of the Holy Spirit

Throughout the New Testament there is a picture of the Apostle Paul showing appreciation...

In almost all of his opening he starts by saying I Thank God for you and I Pray for you...

He demonstrates a thankfulness and also encourages the believers to be thankful as followers of Christ, Paul was the one who said these words...

1 Thessalonians 5:18

“give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.”

Part 3.

I'm Thankful for You...

I'm Thankful for Your Bold Witness of Christ

Romans 1

8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is being reported all over the world. 9 God, whom I serve in my spirit in preaching the gospel of his Son, is my witness how constantly I remember you 10 in my prayers at all times; and I pray that now at last by God's will the way may be opened for me to come to you.

11 I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong— 12 that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith.

Paul was thankful for the good reputation of the church in Rome. Because of its location, this church had a special visibility and opportunity to glorify Jesus throughout the Empire.

But these Christians had to be strong. The Christians of Rome were unpopular and falsely accused of things like incest and cannibalism. It was there under Nero that they were persecuted for their faith. Yet they were bold in their witness of Christ.

I'm thankful for people in this church who are bold in their witness of Jesus.

Story: Richard after having heart surgery

I'm Thankful for your Faithfulness and Commitment

Ephesians 1

15 For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, 16 I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.

Romans 12:12

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, **faithful** in prayer.

- There are people who have been apart of this church for many years...
- They have been faithful to God...
- They have been Committed for many years...
- If that is you I want to say thank you for your Faithfulness and Commitment first to God and also to this body of believers...
- The other day I meet with a Missionary who is now in there 60's.
- He said it was in this church that they met their spouse, got married and was sent out to the mission field...

I'm Thankful for your Callings and Gifting

1 Peter 1:15

But **just as he who called you** is holy, so be holy in all you do;

1 Corinthians 3

6 I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow.
 7 So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. 8 The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. 9 **For we are co-workers in God's service**; you are God's field, God's building.

2 Corinthians 8

16 Thanks be to God, who **put into the heart of Titus the same concern I have** for you.

- I'm thankful for the people who Help and Serve
- There is a Reward from the Lord for those who serve Him and ask for nothing in return...
- The Lord keeps records of what you do...
- It may be over looked by others...
- It may be overlooked by the Pastors...
- You may have even forgotten...
- But God has not forgotten...
- The Church is built by the hands of the grateful hearts of the redeemed...

- Those individuals who serve as unto the Lord...
- Volunteerism is one of the most valuable commodities the church has...
- Thank You for your for your Help and Service to our Lord Jesus...

I'm Thankful for your Prayers

Ephesians 6:19

19 Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

James 5:16

16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

I'm Thankful for your Friendship

If you study the writings of the Apostle Paul you will find there were certain people he considered dear and close to.

A few names:

- **Barnabas** and **John Mark**
- **Priscilla and Aquilla** opened their home to Paul and they together ministered in Ephesus.
- **Silas** traveled with Paul and escaped prison with him in Philipe

- **Timothy**

2 Timothy 1

2 To Timothy, my dear son:

Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

3 I thank God, whom I serve, as my ancestors did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. 4 Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. 5 I am reminded of

your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.

- **Tychicus & Onesimus**

Colossians 4

7 Tychicus... He is a dear brother, a faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord.

9 He is coming with Onesimus, our faithful and dear brother, who is one of you.

- **To the Church in Philippi**

Philippians 1

3 I thank my God every time I remember you. 4 In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy 5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, 6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

7 It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. 8 God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

Hebrew 3:13

But encourage one another daily, as long as it is **called** "Today,"