



WEEKLY SERMON

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Sunday November 20, 2022
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Message: Thanksgiving

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Text: See lesson

In the conclusion to I Thessalonians chapter 5, the Apostle Paul gives us a short list of principles for Christian ministry and Christian living.

In verses 12-13 Paul explains **FAMILY LEADERSHIP**.

In verses 4-15 Paul explains **FAMILY PARTNERSHIP**.

In verses 17-28 Paul explains **FAMILY WORSHIP**.

Rejoicing is important, verse 16. The Word of God is important, verses 19-21.

Prayer is important, verse 17, 25. Godly living is important, verse 22-24.

Praise is important, verse 18. Christian fellowship is important, verse 25-28.

Now having said all that, I want you to notice verse 25 where we read, "**Brethren, pray for us.**" That was a common theme that Paul echoed throughout his writings. **Pray for us!** For example, we read

In II Thessalonians 3:1-2 we read, "**Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified...and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men...**"

In Colossians 4:2-4 we read, "**Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving; With all praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance to speak the mystery of Christ...**"

In Ephesians 6: 18 Paul challenges us, "**Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; and for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel.**"

In Philemon 22 we read, "**...for I trust that through your prayers I shall be given unto you.**"

In I Thessalonians 5:12, once again we are challenged, "**Brethren, pray for us.**" That is an easy request, in which we can all participate and be involved, from the littlest child up through adulthood.

Our church family on many occasions says, "**Brethren pray for us.**"

Our Pastor's, our Sunday school teachers and our ministry workers say, "**Brethren pray for us.**"

Our missionary family especially says, "**Brethren pray for us.**"

Perhaps you are asking, how does one pray for a missionary, especially one we don't really know personally? Allow me to give to you several suggestions that I have given on occasion.

1. **Pray for the Holy Spirit's control and leading in their lives.** Acts 13:1
2. **Pray for their vision of souls that need to be reached with the Gospel.** Matthew 9:36-37
3. **Pray for open doors in their area.** Open doors mean open hearts. In some cases because of the culture, costumes, and religious backgrounds it takes months, maybe years to reach people with the gospel in their area. Colossians 4:2-4.
4. **Pray for their protection from the wiles of the Devil.** We are battling evil spirits in America. But often on the foreign fields the evil spirits and demonic control is much more powerful. Pray for their protection according to Ephesians 6: 10-18.
5. **Pray for their faith, that it will remain strong.** Pray that they will not faint in the midst of the battle for the souls of men and women. I Corinthians 16:13
6. **Pray for their family on the field.** Pray for their family here in the states. Pray for those whose children in many cases are separated from parents because of schooling.
7. **Pray for their physical needs even for basics, such as food and water.** Philippians 4: 13
8. **Pray for their protection from physical dangers.** II Corinthians 11
9. **Pray for their loneliness; their spiritual needs and problems.**

This week, as you are thinking about those around the world on the front lines for the cause of Christ, take Paul's request to heart, "**Brethren, Pray for us..**"

Here are EIGHT Statements to PONDER:

One: Good morning – “I RISE TODAY with - God’s SPIRIT to TEACH me, God’s POWER to PILOT me, God’s STRENGTH to SUSTAIN me, God’s WISDOM to GUIDE me, God’s EYE to look AHEAD for me, God’s EAR to HEAR me, God’s WORD to SPEAK for me, God’s HAND to PROTECT and CARRY me, God’s LOVE to PROSPER and COMPLETE me. Amen and Amen.”

Two: “Before you ask God for what you want, first thank Him for what you have.”

Three: As long as we have **MEMORIES**, yesterday remains. As long as we have **HOPE**, tomorrow awaits. As long as we have **LOVE**, today is beautiful. As long as you have **GOD**, anything and everything is possible – Amen and Amen!

Fourth: Remember, God didn’t **REMOVE** the Red Sea, He parted it. Sometimes God doesn’t **REMOVE** your problems, He makes a way **THROUGH** them.

Five: Here is a good definition for the BIBLE

B = basic - I = instructions - B = before - L = Leaving - E = Earth

Six: There can be no peace between you and Christ while there is peace between you and sin.

Seven: Holding a grudge doesn’t make you strong; it makes you bitter. Forgiving doesn’t make you weak ; it sets you free.

Eight: A BABY is not a **MISTAKE**, not a **PROBLEM**, not a **BURDEN**, not an **INCONVIENCE**, not a **NUISANCE**, not an **ACCIDENT**, not a **PUNISHMENT**, it’s a **MIRACLE**. – In Psalm 139:13-16 we read, “**For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. (14) I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. (15) My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. (16) Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.**”

In His Amazing Grace,
Pastor David Miklas

People Who Want To Finish Well Must Master The Habit Of Thanksgiving

Bible Study Objectives:

1. To remind us that happiness always finds those who have learned to be thankful: (Psalms 108:1-7, Job 35:10)
2. To remind us that unhappiness always finds those who have chosen to be critical/unthankful: (Romans 1:21-32)
3. To remind us that our first awaking thoughts should be to thank God for His goodness to us: (Psalms 103:1-2, 15-16)
4. To remind us that thanksgiving is a daily non-negotiable expectation for every serious believer: (Hebrews 13:15)
5. To remind us that thanksgiving is automatic when we become aware of the source of all blessings: (James 1:17)

Bible Study Details:

1. We are to be thankful that we responded to the gospel and our names are in the book: (John 12:37, Luke 10:20)
2. We are to be thankful that we know that salvation is because of grace, it is not earned by works: (Ephesians 2:8)
3. We are to be thankful that we are only required to do what we can do for God and others: (John 12:3, Mark 14:6-8)
4. We are to be thankful that our service to God and others is recorded and never erased (Mark 14:9, Matthew 10:42)
5. We are to be thankful that we know exactly how God knows if we really love Him unconditionally: (John 21:15-17)
6. We are to be thankful that we know the attitude we must have before we attempt to serve others: (Psalms 100:1-5)
7. We are to be thankful that we know that God has allowed/approved the events of every day: (Psalms 118:24, 37:23)
8. We are to be thankful that we have the power to choose to be thankful regardless of circumstances: (Colossians 3:15)
9. We are to be thankful that we know God has a perfect plan for every burden/illness/tragedy/victory: (Romans 8:28)
10. We are to be thankful that we get to teach our family and others how to achieve real success: (Deuteronomy 6:3-7)
11. We are to be thankful that we know the antidote for worry/depression that results in great peace: (Philippians 4:6-7)
12. We are to be thankful that we know the exact source of all the many blessings of this life: (I Chronicles 29:11-13)

Bible Study Summary:

Happy people have learned to thank God and others: (Psalms 107:8,15,21,31, Proverbs 3:27)

Fanny Crosby, who wrote the hymn “To God Be The Glory” and who was accidentally blinded as an infant, wrote about her affliction. “Oh what a happy soul am I, although I cannot see, for I am resolved that in this world, contented I will be.”

To God be the glory, great things He hath done,
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life gate that all may go in.

Oh, perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
To every believer the promise of God;
The vilest offender who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

Refrain: Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
let the people rejoice!
Oh, come to the Father,
through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory,
great things He hath done.

The Above lesson was written by Tommy Dowling
a Sunday School Teacher for over 40 years.

If God has spoken to your heart after reading the sermon "Mastering the Habit of Thanksgiving" right now talk to God about what He has spoken to you.

Do you have the assurance that one day you will go to heaven? If you have no assurance that you know Jesus Christ, then I trust you will decide to accept Him as your personal Savior. The Bible tells us in

Acts 16:31, "...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved..."
Romans 10:13, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

This prayer is here for those who need to ask Jesus to be their personal Savior: "I do want to go to Heaven. I know I am a sinner, and I do believe Jesus Christ died for me. I realize I cannot buy this great salvation, nor can I earn it. Knowing Jesus died on the cross and arose from the grave to pay my sin debt and to purchase my salvation, I do now trust Him as my Savior, and from this moment on I am completely depending on Him for my salvation."

If you made the decision to accept Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, please let me know. Please send an e-mail to pastormiklas@aol.com and I will send you some literature that will help you in your Christian life.

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