

Make Church a Part of Your Life

WEEKLY SERMONETTE

"Gratitude Should Be Expansive"

By Pastor Terry Laughlin, CrossRoads Church, Norton

The Holy Spirit of Christ moved the Apostle Paul to write, "...give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thesalonians 5:16-17)

The two words "all circumstances" make this exhortation from the Lord very difficult. If we were told in most things or in good things, we would find it much easier to accept and obey.

The Apostle Paul lived what he preached and this is so clearly seen in Acts 16:16-43. Paul and Silas were thrown into prison and put into stocks. The Bible says; "About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them." (Acts 16:25) Our Biblical examples, Paul and Silas expressed expansive praise and others heard it. This Biblical account sets the heartbeat for those with Holy Spirit illumination of the attitude of gratitude in being

called to the work of the Lord.

One would think that Paul and Silas would be moaning their plight. Most certainly they were suffering from their flogging. Instead of complaining, we hear praying

and singing. Notice that the great Apostle Paul and Silas are not demanding a miracle, rather enjoying the power of praise. As a response to their praise, they saw God work miraculously in their behalf. The jailer and his family

turned their hearts and lives over to Christ and received His free gift of salvation.

Those who are mature in spiritual matters know that Paul's and Silas' imprisonment was an attack from the enemy working through unsaved mankind. Jesus even taught that physical infirmities can be an attack from Satan (Luke 13:11-16). We are to follow the Biblical example of those who praise the Lord, regardless of their circumstances.

Our expansive praises are heard by others. Expansive praise birthed from a sure trust in the Sovereignty of God proves there is something different about Christians in comparison to those who live in this world.

For application's sake: Do people around you know that regardless of your circumstances, good or bad, you live a life of praise to God?

Make Your Gratitude Expansive!

Unbroken Promises



There's an old saying, "Don't put all your eggs in one basket." If something happens to that basket all those eggs might break! It's difficult to put all our trust in others; we are often discouraged by misleading information and broken promises. At times it seems easier to trust only ourselves. Is it possible to put all our confidence in something other than ourselves?

There is a safe haven for all our trust; God. God does not break His promises; His advice is straightforward and sure. It is possible to place ourselves in His hands. "God shall cover you with his feathers, and under his wings shall you trust; his truth shall be your shield and protection" (Psalm 91:4).

Discover more about God at your house of worship. You can put all your eggs in His basket.

Sunday Psalm 107	Monday Psalm 126	Tuesday Psalm 135	Wednesday Psalm 138	Thursday Revelation 4.1-11	Friday Revelation 5.1-14	Saturday Revelation 7.1-17
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