# Make Church a Part of Your Life WEEKLY SERMONETTE

## "How to Say Thanks"

By Preacher/Teacher Terry Laughlin, CrossRoads Ministries

## HEART OF THE APOSTLE PAUL

thanks to God and to those who were in partnership with him in the Lord's work. Philippians 1:3-11 says, "Ithank my God every time I remem-

ber you. In all my prayers for

all of you, I always pray with

joy because of your partner-

ship in the gospel from the

first day until now. It is right

for me to feel this way about

all of you, since I have you

in my heart; for whether I am

in chains or defending and

confirming the gospel, all

of you share in God's grace

with me. God can testify how

I long for all of you with the

affection of Christ Jesus.

And this is my prayer: that

your love may abound more

and more in knowledge and

depth of insight, so that you

may be able to discern what

is best and may be pure and

blameless until the day of

Christ, filled with the fruit

of righteousness that comes

through Jesus Christ--to the

The Apostle Paul presents to us the heartbeat of a mature

Christian. These passages of

Scripture present concisely

and clearly the expressions

of thanksgiving that are so

desperately needed in the

glory and praise of God."

Paul knew how to say Body of Christ.

portion of the letter he has seen and his comfort, and he is The Apostle Paul at Philip- little fruit from his labors, and pi is maltreated; there he is yetheremembers Philippi with scourged and put in the stocks. joy. He looks upon his suffer-At the time he writes of this ings for Christ as his credit

Weekly

Scripture

Reading

Isaiah

8:16-9:7

Isaiah

11:1-16

Isaiah

25:1-9

Isaiah

26:1-19

Isaiah

35:1-10

Christ.

so thankful. The Apostle is not alone in the world, he is not the only one living for Christ. He is part of a great family of believers. He is not in the presence of the Body of Christ, yet in his Roman prison he has great joy in remembering that there are others who are serving the Lord and living in a sweet fellowship with God and

Those involved in the work of the Lord are not alone. There is the whole Body of Christ with different spiritual gifts and committed to their work for the Lord. Those who are illuminated with this truth are just like the Apostle who wrote, "... giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light." (Colossians 1:12) Whether you are with a certain group of Christians or you are just remembering the labors and faithfulness of others, there can be a wonderful joy that floods your heart as you thank God for calling you into Kingdom

world. With all of today's technology, we can share and be an illustration to all generations that the wisdom of a strong faith in God is foremost. Psalm 100:5 says, "For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations." Remember to worship together as a family this and every week.

**GENERATIONS** 

As science and medicine discover more means of

longevity, we will see increasing members of different

generations alive together. The opportunity for older

tremendous; especially now that communication is

more sophisticated and instantaneous around the

generations to share wisdom with the younger is



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Isaiah 40:1-31 Isaiah 42:1-17 Scriptures Selected by the American service.

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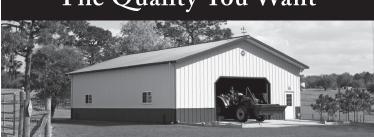
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