

## “THANKS”

*“We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers. We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love and your endurance inspired by hope in the Lord Jesus Christ.”*

I Thessalonians 1: 2-3

It's always time to give thanks. Of course it's the Thanksgiving holiday in a few short days but as those who believe that Jesus is Lord, giving thanks is a part of our daily expression. We have so much to thank the Lord for. A local church in Chesterfield has a sign on their front lawn that reads, “If you think you haven't got anything to be thankful for, check your pulse.” ☺ There are many physical and spiritual blessings that the Lord has graciously given to us and being thankful is a great way to show Him that we appreciate what He has done for us.

Yet many times the greatest blessings in our lives go unnoticed. God has placed people in your life that are a blessing. If you stop and think, what would you do without the servant at the fast food counter or window giving you that cup of coffee, that co-worker that helps you every day, that company that pays you or the police officer who keeps your neighborhood safe while you sleep at night. Have you said thanks? And how about the folks that you are closer too, your friends, family, church or neighbor, have you said thanks?

Paul gives us a great way to say thank you to those people in our lives who bless us in the scripture verses above. First pray for them. I don't know of anyone who doesn't appreciate prayer. When you tell someone that you appreciate them and that you are praying for them they will smile at you and say thank you. What a wonderful way to bless others back, remember them in prayer and let them know that you are praying for them.

Secondly, Paul remembers three specific things to be thankful for when praying for the folks at Thessalonica. Why would he do that? An appreciative person almost always remembers why they are thankful. And an appreciative person tells others about the way they have been a blessing. Do that this week. Be specific with those around you. Tell them about how they are a blessing to you and to others. And don't just stop at one, think of a couple things. Paul thought of three things to lavish praise upon the people of this little growing church. He noticed their work, their labor and their endurance. People want to be appreciated for what they do. You can really lift a soul or two this week by letting others know just how they have helped you or were diligent with a project or went out of their way to do something.

Thirdly, Paul mentions the spirit behind the work of this Body of Christ, their faith, their love and their hope. You can bless a heart this week by saying something nice about their personality that you appreciate. When you say kind remarks about how others show love or help build your faith or persevere in hope, you give them something tangible that will boost their feelings and give them joy. Tell someone you are thankful for them. It's God's will (I Thessalonians 4: 16-18).