

“Thankful for Brothers and Sisters”

1 Thess. 5:18

Introduction

- I. It should be easy to understand that Christians should be thankful.
- II. Without a doubt, we should be thankful to God for his many blessings (Psm. 100:4).
- III. Paul, for sure, wrote thirteen books of the New Testament, and nine of the thirteen books contain references to his thankfulness for members of the church.
- IV. Specifically, let us examine why we should be thankful for our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Discussion

- I. Faithfulness
 - A. Notice these references by Paul (Rom. 1:8; Col. 1:3-4; 1 Thess. 1:2-3; Philemon 4-5).
 - B. How many times have we been positively encouraged by the faithfulness of a brother or sister (cf. Dan. 3)?
- II. Abilities
 - A. Remember the Parable of the Talents (Matt. 25:14-30).
 - B. The Holy Spirit gave different abilities to different members in the first century (1 Cor. 12:4-31).
 - C. I am grateful that there are others who are better at some things than myself.
- III. Love of God's Word
 - A. The congregation at Cartersville has a rich history of loving God's Word (Eph. 4:15; cf. 2 Thess. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:1-5).
 - B. Knowing that others love the Bible, and want to hear it taught and preached, is a source of strength to those who do such works.
- IV. Differences
 - A. While the doctrine should be the same amongst all Christians, each individual has his own personality and manners of life (1 Cor. 12:14-24).
 - B. The beauty of the church of Christ is that all cultures, genders, education levels, etc. make up Christ's wonderful bride.
- V. Growth
 - A. It is commanded that children of God grow spiritually (2 Pet. 3:18)
 - B. Each member will grow at different speeds, but all should be growing (Heb. 5:12-14; 1 Pet. 2:1-3).
 - C. We should be thankful with the maturation of a child of God (2 Thess. 1:3-5).

Conclusion

- I. We truly have much for which to be thankful.
- II. Amongst the blessings of God, let us not forget to be thankful for our brothers and sisters in Christ.